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A-League Round 22 Friday 1st March - Sunday 3rd March 2013

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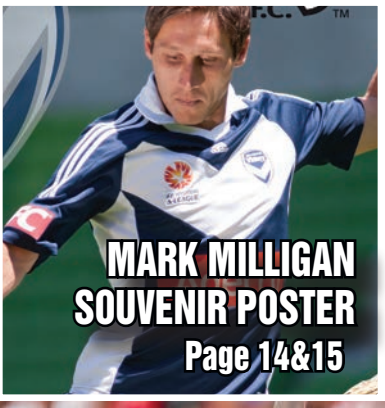

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HANDS UP IF YOU WANT TO WIN SOME SILVERWARE THIS SEASON

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Mariners Pay The Penalty In ACL Opener

Mariners 0 Suwon Bluewings 0

CENTRAL Coast Mariners kicked off their 2013 AFC Champions League campaign with a scoreless draw against K-League Classic club Suwon Bluewings at Central Coast Stadium on Wednesday night.

The Mariners dominated much of the match and missed a golden opportunity to win the game against Seo Jung-won's side after Jung Sungryong saved Nick Montgomery's 88th minute penalty kick.

Suwon defender Kwak Kwangsun made a horrific handball inside his own area to gift the Mariners a chance to take all three points from 12-yards, but unfortunately for Central Coast Montgomery's shot was saved by Bluewings' and Korea Republic's international custodian Sungryong.

Graham Arnold's side had the better of the chances to win the clash on Matchday 1. Indeed, soon after Montgomery's spot kick, Pedj Bojic mistimed an effort from an inviting position, letting Suwon off the hook.

It was obvious from the outset that neither side wanted to concede early in the game. Nevertheless, the Mariners did have the better of the play in the first 45, creating a few opportunities to open their account in this season's version of Asia's premier club competition.

Korea's international keeper Jung guesses right and saves Nick Montgomery's spot-kick. It was the second penalty miss in as many matches for the Mariners. Photo: KAREN DOUGLAS

The energetic Nick Fitzgerald provided a chance after flying down the left side to whip in a cross for Kiwi international Michael McGlinchey. McGlinchey fired a half volley at goal, however couldn't direct his shot on target.

Suwon's biggest chance of the first half and possibly the match came in the 43rd minute to Chong Tese. The DPR Korea international ran onto a low and direct cross but failed to hit the target.

Despite it being Suwon's first competitive match of the season their fitness held up well in the first 45 minutes, but the true test came in the second half against the Hyundai A-League's ladder leaders. In the A-League, the Mariners have picked up 28 from a possible 30 at their home venue this season.

The conservative nature of the first half carried into the first ten minutes of the second and this was evident through the Mariners' flanks. Josh Rose and Pedj Bojic, perhaps understanding the threat Suwon pose on the break, played somewhat more defensively than usual.

Nevertheless, the duo were still integral to some of the Mariners' best play, with clever through balls for the likes of McGlinchey and the A-League's top marksman Daniel McBreen helping keep Arnold's outfit on top of Seo's side.

The pacey Mitchell Duke was injected into the match in the 63rd minute and just sixty seconds later found himself with the ball at his feet and with a great chance to break the deadlock.

Duke picked the ball up on the edge of the box, charged at Sungryong and opted to drive his shot at goal with the outside of his right foot. His effort pounded into the keeper from close range, and while the rebound came straight back at him he had little time to react, with his hurried follow up shot flying over the crossbar.

In a game of few opportunities, the best chances of the contest undoubtedly came in the final five minutes of the match. Sungryong's save from Montgomery's spot kick and Bojic's failure to connect with his late chance ensured the game remained goalless and both teams got their Group H campaign off to a solid start.

Central Coast Mariners play their next AFC Champions League match away to J-League outfit Kashiwa Reysol on Wednesday 13 March at the Kashiwa Soccer Stadium in Japan.

However, Arnold and his men will not be looking that far down the track just yet, with games against Western Sydney Wanderers (Saturday 2 March, home) and Sydney FC (Saturday 9 March, away) before their 2013 AFC Champions League Matchday 2 date with Reysol in the land of the rising sun.

Central Coast Mariners 0
Suwon Bluewings 0
Central Coast Stadium, Gosford
Referee: Ali Hasan Ebrahim Abdulnabi (Bahrain)

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 2. Daniel Mcbreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 5. Zachary Anderson, 11. Oliver Bozanic, 14. Michael Mcglinchey (C) (9. Bernie Ibini 72'), 16. Trent Sainsbury, 18. Nick Montgomery, 21. Mile Sterjovski (19. Mitchell Duke 62'), 29. Nick Fitzgerald
Substitutes Not Used: 8. Adriano Pellegrino, 13. Brent Griffiths, 17. Anthony Caceres, 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk), 24. Hayden Morton
Yellow Cards: Mcbreen 88'
Red Cards: Nil

Suwon Bluewings: 1. Jung Sungryong (Gk), 2. Choi Jaesoo, 3. Kwak Kwangsun, 7. Cho Donggun (11. Stevo 63'), 8. Kim Doohyun (C) (16. Cho Ji Hoon 69'), 9. Oh Jangeun, 13. Seo Jungjin (36. Kim Dae Kyung 56'), 14. Chong Tese, 15. Hong Soonhak, 17. Hong Chul, 23. Eddy Bosnar
Substitutes Not Used: 3. Lee Jongmin, 19. Cho Yongtae, 21. Yang Dongwon (Gk), 34. Yeon Jaemin
Yellow Cards: Jaesoo 87', Jangeun 29'
Red Cards: Nil

ACL Wrap Rd 1

Last year's AFC Champions League semi-finalists Bunyodkor made a strong start to the 2013 edition of the tournament on Wednesday.

The Uzbekistani powerhouse stunned reigning J.League champions Sanfrecce Hiroshima with a 2-0 away win in Group G.

Bunyodkor had not played a competitive game since November but they started well and took the lead on the stroke of half-time through Oleksandr Pishchur.

And they wrapped up the three points when Fozil Musayev added a second four minutes from time.

The other match in the group saw South Korean side Pohang Steelers draw 0-0 at home to Beijing Guoan of China.

Striker Cleo scored the only goal as Kashiwa Reysol claimed a 1-0 win at Guizhou Renhe in Group H.

The Brazilian headed home just before half-time to give the Japanese club an ideal start to the competition.

The group's other game saw A-League club Central Coast Mariners held to a scoreless draw by Suwon Bluewings.

There was no shortage of goals in Group D where United Arab Emirates outfit Al Ain came from behind to claim a 3-1 home win over Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia.

Abdullah Al Zoari had put the visitors ahead after nine minutes at Tahnoun Bin Mohammed Stadium before Omar Abdulrahman squared proceedings midway through the first half.

Alex Brosque gave the hosts the lead inside the first minute of the second half before former Sunderland striker Asamoah Gyan sealed the result in stoppage time.

Qatari side Al Rayyan played out a 3-3 home draw with Esteghlal of Iran in the group's other match.

Iranian champions Sepahan got their campaign off to a flying start as a Xhevahir Sukaj brace and a late Omid Ebrahimi strike sealed a 3-0 defeat of Dubai-based Al Nasr in Group C.

Last year's runners-up Al Ahli also made a winning start in the group with the Saudi side 2-0 winners against Qatar's Al Gharafa.

Jets end winless streak in New Zealand

Wellington Phoenix 1 Newcastle Jets 2

Wellington Phoenix could not start the post-Ricki Herbert era in a winning fashion, going down 2-1 to the Newcastle Jets on Wednesday night.

The rearranged fixture, brought forward from March because of a clash with New Zealand's World Cup qualifiers, came just a day after Herbert's resignation had shocked his players.

And any hopes Wellington had of reigniting their A-League playoff chances under assistant coach Chris Greenacre, who is in charge until the end of the season, were all but snuffed out by half-time.

They trailed 2-0 by that stage after two poor pieces of defending allowed Adam Taggart to score his maiden goal for the Jets and Michael Bridges to nod home his first of the season.

A poacher's goal from Jeremy Brockie midway through the second half gave home side Wellington a glimmer of hope and the striker could have got his side a share of the spoils in the dying minutes only to fire wide.

The win ended the Jets' nine-game winless streak in the New Zealand capital which stretched back to 2007 and lifted them above Melbourne Heart into fifth on the ladder.

Before the match, Yellow Fever fans unfurled a banner proclaiming 'Sir Ricki' in recognition of the former coach who had led the team for more than 150 games since their inception in 2007.

And the Phoenix started brightly with a couple of half-chances, the best of which came in the seventh minute when Paul Ifill's cross into the box slid just beyond the reach of Brockie.

Ifill got far more touches on the ball with most of the Phoenix's attack coming down his left flank.

Louis Fenton was as industrious as ever but it was the Jets who started to take control of the game.

Phoenix care-taker coach Chris Greenacre looks on from the sidelines. Photo: CRAIG McINTOSH

The visitors should have been a goal up in the 15th minute only for Emile Heskey to miss an absolute sitter.

Bridges' well-judged ball sliced through the Phoenix defence and Heskey simply had to place the ball past Glen Moss but instead skewed it wide to the delight of the crowd.

But they were silenced four minutes later when Josh Brilliante whipped in a low cross from the right and the unmarked Taggart side-footed it low past Moss to open the scoring.

Bridges was denied by Tony Lochhead in the 32nd minute, then set up another Heskey effort a few minutes later.

The striker put the Englishman through on goal but a well-timed tackle by Ben Sigmund stopped him getting his shot away.

Zenon Caravella, who had been booked earlier in the match, limped off in the 39th minute to be replaced by Andrew Hoole.

Then Wellington's poor defending at the set-piece came back to haunt them a minute from half-time. Ifill conceded a free-kick just outside the area and joined Caravella and Brockie in getting first-half yellow cards.

Goodwin whipped the ball into the box and Bridges' diving header left Moss rooted to the spot.

As they had done against Adelaide last weekend, the Phoenix came out with greater intensity after the break and spent longer periods in the Jets' half.

The pressure eventually brought some reward thanks to the tenacity of Corey Gameiro who intercepted a poor Taylor Regan back pass. He found Fenton whose shot flew off the head of goalkeeper Mark Birighitti and Brockie pounced to put the rebound away with 30 minutes to go.

At the other end Moss pulled off a couple of superb saves to deny Goodwin and Mitch Cooper, who had replaced Bridges.

It gave Wellington a glimmer of hope which would have turned into a precious point had Brockie been able to find the target for a second time.

There were a flurry of yellow cards in the closing stages. Heskey had been booked shortly after half-time and Gameiro, Manny Muscat, Hoole and Birighitti were all shown yellow in the final 10 minutes.

Phoenix's Jeremy Brockie cuts a jaded figure. Photo: CRAIG McINTOSH

Emile Heskey and `Andrew Dutante go head-to-head.Photo: CRAIG McINTOSH

RICKI HERBERT RESIGNS AS WELLINGTON PHOENIX COACH

Ricki Herbert has resigned from the position of head coach of the Wellington Phoenix effective immediately.

The Wellington Phoenix Board announced today that it had accepted Herbert's resignation and in doing so has offered Herbert an advisory position within the Club.

In tendering his resignation, Herbert cited his desire to focus on his international duties with the All Whites in a busy World Cup qualification year, and his belief that the time is right for a change at the club and to take on new challenges for himself.

"The results this year have not been what anyone would have wanted and I felt that it was time for someone else to take a fresh look at things at the club," Herbert said.

"The coaching staff and players have all put in a huge effort this year but we haven't got the results we wanted.

"So with the need for a fresh look, along with the fact that this year is an extremely important one for the All Whites, I felt I needed to step down as the Phoenix Head Coach.

"I've had a long and very successful tenure at the Club and will always be proud of what I have achieved. But all good things must come to an end and it's time for new coaching blood and for me to move on to new and exciting challenges"

Ricki Herbert's tenure as Phoenix coach comes to an end, and will now concentrate on the All Whites' World Cup campaign. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Wellington Phoenix Chairman Rob Morrison said that in accepting Herbert's resignation the Club is pleased that Herbert will take up the role of Technical Football Advisor to the Board.

"While the Board accepted Ricki's resignation we were keen to ensure that his knowledge and expertise was not lost to the Club," Morrison said.

"Ricki has an unparalleled record in the Hyundai A-League. Without his contribution the Phoenix could not have had the success it has had.

"We are very pleased that Ricki has agreed to accept the advisory role to the Board."

Herbert has been the Phoenix's only Head Coach after taking the role at the inception of the Club in 2007. In season 2012-13 Herbert became the A-League's longest serving coach when he surpassed Ernie Merrick's 151 games for the Melbourne Victory.

Herbert has led the team to three finals appearances in a row (an A-League record), set the record for the longest unbeaten home winning streak in the A-League and led the Club to its highest finishing position of third in season 2009-10.

Current assistant coach Chris Greenacre will take over the coaching responsibilities until the end of the 2013 season.

FFSA Refs Go High Tech

Football Federation SA is pleased to announce that its match officials will be using Communications Equipment for the 2013 South Australian Premier League season.

The initiative marks the first time technology of this kind has been used in SA and is a result of a partnership between FFSA and the Soccer SA Referees Federation Branch.

The technology will see improved communication on the pitch between the referee and the assistant referees who will each wear a vest which contains a receiver and transmitter.

Referees will have an open microphone while assistant referees will have a push-to-talk button and all three officials will have an air-tube earpiece.

The system will allow the officials to communicate better and improve the decision making amongst the officials.

Referee assessors will also be linked into the communication equipment, allowing them to listen to the match-day communication between match officials and assist with feedback in their Officials Match Report.

GRIFFITHS LEAVES JETS

Newcastle Jets striker Ryan Griffiths has decided to join Beijing Baxi FC, leaving the Jets effective immediately.

Griffiths requested a release from his contract, which was due to expire at the end of the 2013/14 season.

"It is disappointing to lose a player like Ryan but we didn't want to stand in his way when making this move was important for his family," CEO Robbie Middleby said.

"Any transfer decision is case-by-case, and as Ryan has been weighing up a move to China for some time, we understand his decision.

"Ryan has been a great player for the Club and we wish him well at Beijing Baxi."

Griffiths departs the Jets after playing 55 games for the Club.

"This was a hard decision because I love this Club and town but I needed to consider my young family and do what is best for them, and right now that is going to play in China," Griffiths said.

"I will always appreciate the management of the Jets for supporting me at this point in my career.

"One of the great things about the Club is that at any time you can sit down, talk about your problems or opportunities and they will discuss it and attempt to come up with the best scenario or outcome for all concerned."

Coach Gary van Egmond is disappointed to lose Griffiths but understands his decision.

"While our preference was for Ryan to stay, we understand at 32 years of age, going over to China now secures his family financially," van Egmond said.

China-bound Ryan Griffiths plays his last match for the Jets

Lambadaridis Signs For Roar

Versatile midfielder George Lambadaridis has pledged his future to Brisbane Roar, signing a two year contract that will see him with the club until the end of the Hyundai A-League 2014/15 season.

Previously one of the Roar's full-time National Youth League players, Lambadaridis was thankful to be able to upgrade his contract and stay in Brisbane under the tutelage of Head Coach Mike Mulvey and rest of the club's coaching staff.

"It's fantastic to secure your future and I just want to thank the club for giving me the opportunity to stay here for another two years," the 20-year-old.

"They gave me my first professional contract as a full time youth player here two years ago and I look forward to continuing my development here as a footballer and maximising my first team opportunities."

Lambadaridis has already made five senior appearances for the Roar, three times this Hyundai A-League season and twice in last year's successful run to the Championship.

"George is been excellent ever since I've arrived and he's even taken his game to a new level," Mulvey said.

"I'm happy to sign him because he's a talented, versatile young player with a good passing range and an eye for goal."

Brisbane fans will fondly remember the Melbourne-born youngster's last minute stunner in the final round of the season against Gold Coast United, the club which Mulvey was then coaching.

"We've joked about that goal but it was a great start for me," Lambadaridis said. "It gave me a taste, it made me hungrier than ever to continue on and I'm extremely grateful to be here."

Before joining the Roar in September 2011, Lambadaridis played for Belgian side Club Brugge's youth team and Oakleigh Cannons in the Victorian Premier League.

Charlie Yankos appointed Football NSW Director

Football NSW has announced that Charlie Yankos OAM has been appointed as a Director of Football NSW.

On 21 February 2013, the Football NSW Board, having received the recommendation of the Nominations Committee under the Football NSW Constitution, resolved to appoint Yankos as an appointed Director with immediate effect.

"After so many years of playing the game I loved so much, I am excited about being involved as a Director of Football NSW. Hopefully I will be able to share my experiences as a footballer and more recently in the business world to help develop the game. We know that Football is the World game, and I'm looking forward to the prospect of working with other Directors and the football community to develop further opportunities for all participants" said Mr Yankos.

Football NSW Chairman Greg O'Rourke praised the appointment of the former Socceroos skipper to the Football NSW Board.

"We are delighted to welcome Mr Yankos to the Board" said Mr O'Rourke.

"We are convinced that his skills, experience and knowledge in both elite football and property development will complement the existing Directors and contribute to the continued growth and success of Football NSW going forward."

Yankos' football career needs no introduction. He has represented Australia at both Schoolboy and National team level. He played over 300 first grade games for 4 different National Soccer League teams, played 89 games for the Australian Socceroos (46 of those as Captain), played in 2 World Cup campaigns (1986 and 1990) and led the Socceroos into the quarter finals of the Seoul Olympics in 1988. In 1989 he moved to Greece to play professional football for PAOK Salonika in the Greek first division.

Yankos has received many rewards and recognition for his services to Soccer and in 1991 received the prestigious Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for services to Soccer and was also inducted to both the Soccer Australia Sports Hall of Fame and NSW Sports Hall of Champions.

During the past 25 years Yankos has worked with and held senior executive management positions with leading property fund managers including Westfield, Lend Lease Retail, AMP Shopping Centres, QIC Real Estate, Allco Finance Group and White Private.

He currently holds Real Estate and Business Agent Licenses and a Bachelor of Arts Degree specialising in Urban Studies along with successfully completing numerous leadership, performance and property investment management certificates.

He is also the Director and Licensee of a Private Real Estate company, All Property Agents formed in 1987 and has been operating as a real estate company since 2002.

Football NSW would like to congratulate Charlie Yankos on his appointment to the Board of Football NSW

SHORT PASSES

YOUNG STAR SIGNS FOR PERTH GLORY

Perth Glory is delighted to announce, Qantas Joey Daniel De Silva, has signed a professional youth contract with the club until the end of the 2014/15 Hyundai A-League season.

In a massive coup for the club, De Silva has decided to further his football career with Perth Glory despite a host of European giants, including English Premier League club Everton, who were keen to land the 15 year-old.

FFA backs 'Grounds for Complaint' campaign

FFA CEO David Gallop has put his support behind the footballaustralia.com.au 'Grounds for Complaint' campaign.

'Grounds for Complaint' is a grassroots initiative that aims to give a voice to Australia's football community to raise concerns about the chronic shortage of good pitches, training facilities, floodlights and change rooms.

"I have heard many stories over my first 100 days as FFA CEO about the difficulty players, clubs and administrators have in gaining access to facilities. This is a fundamental concern that we must address as football's governing body.

"Creating an online forum to aggregate these stories is a step in the right direction. Our goal is not only to identify the most affected regions, but to help clubs and associations find solutions to ensure our game can continue to grow."

One of the major issues on the agenda is the campaign by Football West for a 'Home of Football' in Western Australia.

"Creating a Home of Football in WA is an important project and I'm delighted to endorse the very worthy campaign Football West are leading," said Gallop.

"Football is the number one participation sport in this country and our game deserves not only a home in each state, but a national home as well."

In early 2013, www.footballaustralia.com.au launched 'Grounds for Complaint' – a forum for fans, administrators, players and coaches to bring their local issues into focus.

"For every football pitch available in Australia, there are 140 players who want to use it," opened Mike Cockerill, footballaustralia.com.au Associate Editor in his first Grounds for Complaint column in late January 2013.

A National Facilities Audit in 2011 showed that for every football ground available there was 140 players wanting access to it.

At a time when player registrations continue to grow there is little argument that supply of adequate football facilities is failing to meet demand.

With the continued explosion of interest in women's football the issues the game faces at a grassroots level is even more pressing.

Players of all ages, genders and cultures are desperate to get onto the park. 'Grounds for Complaint' is a forum where opinions can be expressed, issues raised and - in the case of the recent announcement of a $2.2 million upgrade to Lambert Park in Sydney's inner west - action taken.

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR

SCOREBOARD

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Central Coast Mariners	22	13	6	3	43	18	25	45
2 West Sydney Wanderers	22	14	2	6	31	18	13	44
3 Adelaide United	22	11	3	8	34	32	2	36
4 Melbourne Victory	22	11	3	8	36	38	-2	36
5 Newcastle Jets	23	8	6	9	28	34	-6	30
6 Melbourne Heart	22	8	3	11	29	30	-1	27
7 Sydney FC	22	8	3	11	35	44	-9	27
8 Brisbane Roar	22	7	4	11	26	26	0	25
9 Perth Glory	22	6	4	12	20	24	-4	22
10 Wellington Phoenix	23	5	6	12	25	43	-18	21

THIS WEEK

ROUND 23	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
Sat Mar 02	Adelaide United v Brisbane Roar	Hindmarsh Stadium	5:00pm	5:30pm
Sat Mar 02	CC Mariners v W Sydney Wanderers	Bluetongue Stadium	7:45pm	7:45pm
Sat Mar 02	Perth Glory v Sydney FC	nib Stadium	6:45pm	9:45pm
Sun Mar 03	Wellington Phoenix v Melbourne Heart	Forsyth Stdm, Dunedin	4:30pm	2:30pm
Sun Mar 03	Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets	AAMI Park	5:00pm	5:00pm

NEXT WEEK

ROUND 24	FIXTURE	VENUE	LOCAL	AEDT
Fri Mar 08	Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory	Hunter Stadium	7:30pm	7:30pm
Sat Mar 09	Sydney FC v Central Coast Mariners	Allianz Stadium	5:30pm	5:30pm
Sat Mar 09	Brisbane Roar v Melbourne Victory	Suncorp Stadium	6:45pm	7:45pm
Sun Mar 10	West Sydney Wanderers v Wellington Phoenix	Parramatta Stadium	5:00pm	5:00pm
Mon Mar 11	Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United	AAMI Park	7:30pm	7:30pm

ROUND 22 RESULTS

Newcastle Jets 0
Brisbane Roar 0
Crowd: 8310 @Hunter Stadium

Western Sydney Wanderers 1 *(Mooy 58)*
Perth Glory 0
Crowd: 11,772 @Parramatta Stadium

Central Coast Mariners 6 *(McGlinchey 56, 86, 90, Duke 17, 32, Fitzgerald 81)*
Melbourne Victory 2 *(Milligan 23pen, Sainsbury 69og)*
Crowd: 6,081 @ Bluetongue Stadium

Wellington Phoenix 2 *(Brockie 31, Gameiro 80)*
Adelaide United 2 *(Juric 20, Carrusca 33)*
Crowd 4,892 @ Westpac Stadium

Melbourne Heart 3 *(Kalmar 31, Germano 36, Williams 54pen)*
Sydney FC 1 *(Griffiths 58)*
Crowd: 13,752 at AAMI Park

TOP GOAL SCORERS

15 - Daniel McBREEN (Mariners)
13 - Jeremy BROCKIE (Phoenix)
12 - Marco ROJAS (Victory)
Besart BERISHA (Roar)
11 - Alessandro DEL PIERO (SFC)
9 - Emile HESKEY (Jets)
Ryan GRIFFITHS (Jets)
8 - Mark BRIDGE (Wanderers)
Dario VIDOSIC (Adelaide)
7 - Archie THOMPSON (Victory)

Jeremy Brockie takes outright second place on the charts following his goal against Adelaide United on the weekend and another smashing effort against the Jets during the week.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 22

Compiled by Steven Talevski

GK: Andrew Redmayne – Although conceding a goal, Redmayne was relatively comfortable between the sticks when called upon in his sides 3-1 victory.

RB: Jeremy Walker – The right back is the latest heart youngster to catch the eye of fans and pundits with an impressive performance against Sydney FC.

CB: Jade North – The Socceroo was at his best and should have been on the score sheet but was denied due to dubious offside call.

CB: Nikolai Topor-Stanley – Playing in difficult conditions, Topor Stanley was a solid rock in the centre of defence for the Wanderers as they picked up a one nil victory to go on top of the table for a few hours.

LB: Cassio – The Brazilian left back was back into fine form on the weekend as he delivered a delightful cross into Tomi Juric for the games opener.

RM: Michael McGlinchey – McGlinchey picked up his first A-League hat-trick in a dominating performance against the Victory.

CM: Aaron Mooy – Having not scored in a year, Mooy found the back of the net at the right time as his sole goal handed the Wanderers three points against the Glory.

LM: Nick Kalmer – He may have only played for 60 or so minutes, but Nick Kalmer's spot in Goal! Weekly's team of the week is well deserved as the midfielder was a constant attacking threat and also opened the goal scoring at AAMI Park.

CAM: Marcelo Carrusca – The Argentine scored a goal of the season contender with a stunning volley that struck the crossbar and went into the back of the net as he reminded everyone of his attacking presence in the Reds side.

ST: Mitch Duke – A first half double from the youngster began the floodgates at Bluetongue Stadium as the Mariners thrashed Melbourne Victory 6-2.

ST: Corey Gameiro – Two games, two man of the match performances from the young Socceroo who opened his A-League account this weekend with a sweetly taken volley. Gameiro's terrific work effort was also a highlight of his game which was best seen with his pressure leading into the Phoenix's first goal.

Coach: Graham Arnold – 6-2 was the final score at Bluetongue Stadium as the Mariners handed the Victory a smashing. Arnold lead his team out well, playing an impressive attacking game in shocking conditions. However the manager's test continues this week with an Asian Champions League tie before the top of the table clash against the Wanderers.

Star Man

Michael McGlinchey
Mariners

The New Zealand international slammed home a hat-trick against the Victory in a fine performance out of midfield. His terrific form has come at a great time for the Mariners as they face Suwon Bluewings this week in the ACL and then the Wanderers.

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Through the wind and the rain and a fighting draw

Newcastle Jets 0

Brisbane Roar 0

Match Details

Newcastle Jets 0
Brisbane Roar 0
Friday, 22 February 2013
Hunter Stadium, Newcastle
Referee: Lucien Lavendure

Newcastle Jets: 3. Zenon Caravella, 5. Dominik Ritter, 8. Ruben Zadkovich (C), 9. Emile Heskey, 12. Joshua Brillante, 13. Samuel Gallaway, 14. Taylor Regan, 19. Michael Bridges (25. Mitch Cooper 66'), 20. Mark Birighitti (Gk), 22. Adam Taggart (17. James Virgili 81'), 23. Ryan Griffiths (26. Andrew Hoole 90+1')

Substitutes Not Used: 1. Ben Kennedy
Yellow Cards: Ruben Zadkovich 23', Sam Gallaway 34', Michael Bridges 55'
Red Cards: Nil

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 3. Shane Stefanutto, 5. Ivan Franjic (11. Ben Halloran 83'), 7. Besart Berisha, 9. Stefan Nijland (10. Henrique 83'), 13. Jade North, 14. Steven Lustica, 15. James Donachie, 18. Luke Brattan (17. Mitch Nichols 53'), 19. Jack Hingert, 22. Thomas Broich (C)

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Matt Acton (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Stefan Nijland 35', Mitch Nichols 90+2'
Red Cards: Nil

By Shaun Dyas

The Newcastle Jets and the Brisbane Roar have played out a 0-0 stalemate at a rainy and windswept Hunter Stadium.

In a match both sides were desperate to win, the visitors looked more likely in a match that never really reached any heights in the battle to get into the season ending finals series.

The draw allowed the Newcastle Jets to maintain their two point break on last season's champions and ensured they remained in the top six at the end of the weekend at the expense of the Roar.

Roar goalkeeper Michael Theo was disappointed after the match that his side were unable to get the three points they needed.

"We created a lot of chances and a pity for us as that we couldn't put them in the back of the net." "It was back to the old Brisbane Roar. We have just got to keep believing," he said.

Newcastle captain Ruben Zadkovich felt that the result was more deserved. He did concede however that the inclement conditions were a factor for both outfits.

"The conditions were real tough for both sides. In patches I thought we played real well. A draw was a fair result."

Despite the end result, the game started in exciting fashion as both sets of players looked to put on a show despite the terrible weather.

Emile Heskey was so close to giving the Jets the lead in the 6th minute. Newly re-signed Josh brillante bent in a teasing cross from the left edge that fell to Emile Heskey. Despite the attention of Jack Hingert, Heskey stroked an effort that hit the right post of Roar keeper Michael Theo.

Besart Berisha was played clean through on goal in the 11th minute. He seemed destined to score except for an absolutely superb challenge from Samuel Gallaway. The rebound fell to German danger man Thomas Broich who scuffed a shot that was comfortably saved by Mark Birighitti.

The Jets were looking lively but the Roar was looking just as dangerous on the break. Besart Berisha was played through on numerous occasions. In a sign of the malaise that has set in at the Roar this season, the Albanian spurned the opportunities.

The Roar started to really dominate the midfield and all the chances were heading to the southern end of the ground. The Jets were really relying on a mixture of dogged defensive determination and wasteful Brisbane finishing.

Brisbane was unlucky not to take the lead in the 42nd minute. A free kick was dinked over and the Brisbane centre halves James Donachie and Jade North were given the freedom of the Newcastle penalty area. Donachie got a slight touch that played the ball into North's path. Luckily for the Jets the assistant correctly put his flag up for offside.

Brisbane deserved to be in the lead at the half but they were unable to take one of their numerous chances and the home side were counting their blessings that they were still square at the break.

Ruben Zadkovich sprang into life in the 52nd minute through his now obligatory strike from distance. Heskey was a key to the move with a deft touch from the edge of the box to the Newcastle skipper. His left foot strike was well saved by Theo.

The game again started to lull and was really screaming out for a goal. Both sides never really looked likely and a scoreless draw was beginning to look likely. Gary Van Egmond attempted to spark his troops and brought young Mitch Cooper off the bench in place of an ineffectual Michael Bridges.

Adam Taggart launched a snap shot on 72 minutes that was beaten away by Theo as both sides continued to struggle to assert any authority on the contest.

The Jets looked the more likely side in the latter stages of the match with Emile Heskey and substitute Mitch Cooper looking lively but they were unable to break down a well organised and stubborn Roar defence.

Roar keeper Michael Theo does enough to spoil another Jets attack by Adam Taggart. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Match Stats

5	Saves	2
3	Attempts on target	6
7	Attempts off target	2
54%	Possession	46%
3	Corners	3
1	Offsides	6
14	Fouls committed	10

Man of the Match

Adam Taggart
(Newcastle Jets)
Was a constant menace with his driving runs and pace and also laid on a beautiful assist for Griffiths' match sealing strike.

Roar's Thomas Broich tries to navigate his way through tackles and plenty of attention from the Jets. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

Jade North (Roar) manages to slide tackle Adam Taggart (Jets) in the nick of time. Photo: BEN NEVILLE

West Sydney In Wonderland After Hitting Summit

West Sydney 1

Perth Glory 0

Match Details

Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Mooy 58)
Perth Glory 0
Crowd: 11,772 @Parramatta Stadium

Wanderers: 1.Ante Covic, 3.Adam D'Apuzzo, 4.Nikolai Topor-Stanley, 5.Michael Beauchamp, 6.Jerome Polenz, 10.Aaron Mooy, 13.Joey Gibbs (9.Dino Kresinger 65'), 17.Youssouf Hersi (14.Kwabena Appiah-Kubi 75'), 18.Iacopo La Rocca, 19.Mark Bridge, 21.Shinji Ono (2.Shannon Cole 83').

Yellow Cards: La Rocca 10', D'Apuzzo 62', Kresinger 85'.
Red Cards: None

Perth Glory: 1.Danny Vukovic, 5.Steve Pantelidis, 6.Nick Ward (18.Matias Jesus Cordoba 63'), 8.Deamn Heffernan (21.Scott Jamieson 63'), 9.Shane Smeltz, 10.Liam Miller, 13.Travis Dodd, 14.Steven McGarry, 17.Chris Harold (12.Ryo Nagia 68'), 19.Josh Risdon, 23.Michael Thwaite

Yellow Cards: McGarry 20', Ward 45', Vukovic 86'.
Red Cards: None

By FFA

A deflected second half goal to Aaron Mooy was enough to give the Western Sydney Wanderers a 1-0 win over Perth Glory at a rain soaked Parramatta Stadium.

The narrow win also sent the Wanderers to the top of the Hyundai A-League table for the first time, as the Glory squandered a number of chances in the final ten minutes to snatch a draw.

"The game swung about in periods, they started off the game really well but we weathered the storm and got back on top towards the end, " Perth Glory forward Travis Dodd said.

"What let us down tonight was our passing and the little things that we did well last week."

Liam Miller and substitutes Matias Cordoba and Ryo Nagai all had good chances to equalise for Perth Glory late in the game but their attempts failed to beat the well drilled Wanderers defence.

In tough, wet conditions, Mooy's 58th minute goal proved to be decisive as the midfielders strike deflected off Perth Glory defender Michael Thwaite and past 'keeper Danny Vukovic.

Despite the loss, Dodd said he's still confident that Perth Glory can reach the finals this season with five games to go.

"We still have everything to play for.

"There is still hope for us and we have to believe we can win enough games to reach the finals.

Tony Popovic's men dominated the opening stanza in wet and windy conditions but had to wait until the 58th minute for the match-winner, with Aaron Mooy scoring off a deflection from Michael Thwaite.

Aaron Mooy's winner has the home crowd in raptures, and the result sent the Wanderers to the top of the A-League standings, albeit for an overnight stay. Photo: ALI ERHAN

Match Stats

2	Saves	3
4	Attempts on target	2
9	Attempts off target	5
47%	Possession	53%
3	Corners	2
0	Offsides	3
17	Fouls committed	22

The Glory fought until the final whistle and came agonisingly close to equalising when Liam Miller's strike deflected off team-mate Ryo Nagai in the 82nd minute.

But the ball sailed just over the cross bar as the Wanderers held on in a tense finish to the delight of the 11,772 raucous fans who braved the big Sydney wet.

The win lifted the competition newcomers to 44 competition points, two clear of the Central Coast Mariners temporarily, who then reclaimed top spot with a 6-2 win over Melbourne Victory on Saturday night.

It was an honest performance from Alistair Edwards' men, however the Glory remain stranded in ninth spot on the ladder, five points outside of the all-important top six.

Shinji Ono fired the first shot in anger from either side on six minutes, but teammate Joey Gibbs got in the way after Jerome Polenz broke free down the right and delivered a dangerous cross.

The Wanderers stayed on the attack with Gibbs forcing Danny Vukovic to make his first save of the afternoon.

The home side continued to ask questions of the Glory, Ono unleashing Youssouf Hersi who was convinced he was brought down in the box by Dean Heffernan, but referee Ben Williams disagreed.

Mooy and Hersi fired shots on target to keep Vukovic busy before the Glory enjoyed a brief period of dominance midway through the half.

But the brick-wall Wanderers defence had an answer for everything the visitors could muster.

And when Western Sydney custodian Ante Covic was finally called into action in the 36th minute, he made light work of Thwaite's header after a Heffernan corner kick.

Vukovic had a far busier afternoon and was forced to produce another sharp save in the shadows of half-time after Mark Bridge found the target from long range.

It was an arm-wrestle to start the second half but the Wanderers finally got reward for their dominance when Mooy found the back of the net off a wicked deflection from Thwaite.

Mooy worked an old-fashioned give-and-go with Bridge and fired on goal from the top of the box.

His shot found the top left corner to break the deadlock and continue his side's remarkable winning run.

Man of the Match
Nikolai Topor-Stanley (Wanderers)

Perth Glory keeper Danny Vukovic punches clear from a Wanderers attack. Photo: ALI ERHAN

Kwabena Appiah-Kubi (Wanderers) and Scott Jamieson (Glory) only have eyes for the ball. Photo: ALI ERHAN

Floodgates Open For Mariners At Bluetongue

CC Mariners 6

Melbourne Victory 2

Match Details

Central Coast Mariners 6 (Duke 17, 32', McGlinchey 56', 86', 90+1', Fitzgerald 81')
Melbourne Victory 2 (Milligan 22' (pen), Sainsbury (Own goal) 69')
Bluetongue Stadium, Gosford
Attendance: 6,081
Referee: Strebre Delovski

Central Coast Mariners: 1. Mathew Ryan (Gk), 2. Daniel McBreen, 3. Joshua Rose, 4. Pedj Bojic, 6. Patrick Zwaanswijk, 7. John Hutchinson (c) (11. Oliver Bozanic 85'), 9. Bernie Ibini, 14. Michael McGlinchey, 16. Trent Sainsbury, 18. Nick Montgomery (5. Zachary Anderson 90'), 19. Mitchell Duke (29. Nick Fitzgerald 69')

Substitutes not used: 20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
Yellow cards: Montgomery
Red cards: Nil

Melbourne Victory: 39. Nathan Coe (Gk), 3. Adama Traore, 5. Mark Milligan, 6. Leigh Broxham, 11. Marco Rojas, 14. Billy Celeski, 18. Francesco Stella (26. Andrew Nabbout 46'), 23. Adrian Leijer (c), 31. Scott Galloway (13. Diogo Ferreira 62'), 32. Connor Pain, 33. Daniel Mullen (21. Spase Dilevski 78')

Substitutes not used: 1. Tando Velaphi (Gk)
Yellow cards: Broxham, Milligan
Red cards: Nil

By Adrian Deans

It flooded rain and goals at Bluetongue on Saturday night. After a relatively poor performance in Round 21 against Perth, Graham Arnold demanded a return to form at home against the Victory, and he got it.

Despite a deluge and tempest of biblical proportions – despite the pressure of knowing the Wanderers had leapfrogged them at the top of the table – the Mariners went out and put on a performance to warm the hearts of their coach and the few brave souls that braved the elements.

Mitchell Duke was rewarded for his good recent form off the bench with a starting role, and along with Bernie Ibini was involved in everything in the first half. It was that pair that conceived and crafted the first goal – a great cross from Ibini that was turned in by Duke who'd just nipped in front of two defenders.

But Duke turned villain just a few minutes later when he tripped Mullen in the box. Mat Ryan guessed right and would be disappointed he didn't save after getting both hands to Milligan's penalty.

At one apiece the game really opened up, despite the difficult conditions, and the Mariners gradually wrested control. In the 32nd minute Josh Rose won the ball, moved into the midfield and played a superb channel ball which tempted Coe off his line. Mitchell Duke had other ideas and just nicked the ball away from Coe's desperate slide. He finished a bit softly for my liking – the ball could easily have stopped in a puddle – but did manage to hit the back of the net about the same time as Daniel Mullen, sliding desperately to stop it.

Ten minutes into the second half, Michael McGlinchey got his first when he outmuscled young Scott Galloway to slot past Coe. Then we saw a procession of chances fall to the Mariners as their wide men created havoc in behind the Victory back four. Somehow Victory survived (including McBreen's missed penalty) and were actually given a sniff when Ryan palmed a low cross into Trent Sainsbury's path which deflected into the net.

For the next few minutes the Victory poured on the pressure but the Mariners held firm and put the game beyond doubt when Nick Fitzgerald finished an excellent move. Once again it was the inside channel ball – this time supplied by McGlinchey – which unpacked the Victory defence.

From that point it was Floodgate City – a place the Mariners have now been several times this season after breaking all resistance. McGlinchey finished his hat trick with two neatly taken goals in the last few minutes – the first after a great run and pass from Ibini and the last after McBreen chested down the ball and put McGlinchey in for a one-on-one where he chipped Coe as the keeper dived at his feet.

Considering the diabolical conditions, this was a five star performance from the Mariners who will have their confidence back in spades. Arnold suggested the loss against Perth was the kick up the arse they needed at this critical point in the season. The Victory missed Thompson and Flores but they were heavily outplayed by a Mariners attack that (as usual) duffed as many easy chances as they scored.

The Duke and Ibini show is starting to look a bit like the Thompson Rojas show – two fast and skilful strikers playing on the same page and making numerous chances for each other. Unfortunately for A-League audiences, neither partnership is likely to survive the end of the season.

So now attention turns to next week – Mariners v Wanderers for a game likely to decide the Premiership Plate. Wanderers fans will show up in huge numbers for this, so it's up to the Mariners fans to outnumber and outsing them.

You want the premiership Mariners fans?
Turn up and prove it.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets – published by Vulgar Press, distributed by Dennis Jones and Associates and available in all good book stores. Ebook also available. www.mrcleansheets.com

Central Coast's Mitchell Duke accelerates away from Victory's Mark Milligan. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

Match Stats

0	Saves	4
10	Attempts on target	1
8	Attempts off target	7
58%	Possession	42%
9	Corners	1
10	Offsides	2
11	Fouls committed	17

Man of the Match
Michael McGlinchey
(Wanderers)

Melbourne Victory captain Adrian Leijer shadows the A-League's current top scorer Daniel McBreen. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

Adama Traore (Victory) attempts to hold off Pedj Bojic (Mariners) as the rain comes in sideways. Photo: PETER NEVILLE

Reds climb to third after entertaining Phoenix draw

Wellington Phoenix 2

Adelaide United 2

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 2 (Brockie 31', Gameiro 80')
Adelaide United FC 2 (Juric 20', Carrusca 34')
Referee: Tim McGilchrist
Crowd: 4,832 @ Westpac Stadium

Wellington Phoenix: 20.Glen Moss (gk), 2.Manny Muscat, 3.Tony Lochhead, 7.Leo Bertos, 8.Paul Ifill, 11.Jeremy Brockie, 16.Louis Fenton (12.Tyler Boyd 83'), 17.Vince Lia (10.Stein Huysegems 75'), 18.Ben Sigmund, 22.Andrew Durante (c), 23.Corey Gameiro

Substitutes not used: 1.Mark Paston (gk), 21.Dani Sanchez
Yellow Cards: Muscat 58'
Red Cards: Nil

Adelaide United: 1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c), 2.Osama Malik, 3.Nigel Boogaard, 4.Jon McKain, 6.Cassio, 8.Marcelo Carrusca (18. Fabian Barbiero 83'), 10.Dario Vidosic, 12.Antony Golec, 17.Iain Ramsay, 24.Awer Mabil (23.Evan Kostopoulos 74'), 25.Tomi Juric (14. Cameron Watson 64')
Substitutes not used: 20.Paul Izzo (gk)

Yellow Cards: Malik 8', McKain 5'/69', Boogaard 79', Kostopuolos 90+1'
Red Cards: McKain 69'

By Nic Kerber

Adelaide United FC has jumped up to third on the Hyundai A-League ladder following an entertaining 2-2 draw with the Wellington Phoenix at Westpac Stadium.

The result could have been more favourable for the Reds as they led twice courtesy of superb strikes from Tomi Juric and Marcelo Carrusca.

But both times the Phoenix responded and in the end it was a gritty performance from a Reds outfit that had to hold the home side out with ten men for the final 21 minutes after Jon McKain was sent off.

The stalemate sends the Reds equal on points with Melbourne Victory but ahead on goal difference with five rounds remaining.

Looking for a first away win in seven and a first triumph in Wellington in five attempts, interim United Coach Michael Valkanis gave a first start to Juric as well as exciting youngster Awer Mabil, who at 17 years and 162 days became the youngest non-Australian born player to start a Hyundai A-League match.

Desperate to keep their finals hopes alive, the Phoenix fielded one of their strongest sides of the season, meaning there was plenty at stake in the Reds' first venture to Westpac Stadium since September 2009.

After the Reds sent the Phoenix an early warning sign inside the opening minutes, they deservedly went ahead in the 20th minute.

A well worked move found its way out to the left and Cassio sent a cross in the direction of Juric. Still with work to do, the 21 year old striker positioned himself well to drill a left footed drive past Phoenix keeper Glen Moss and make it two goals from as many games.

The Phoenix came close to levelling moments later but the Reds held on, however in the 31st minute the home side did draw level when Corey Gameiro caught Eugene Galekovic in possession as the Reds captain attempted to clear the ball, which allowed Jeremy Brockie to put away the easiest of his 12 goals this season.

However, it did not take long for the Reds' lead to be restored, Cassio going on a superb slaloming run down the left before squaring the ball for Carrusca and while his first touch was not ideal, it enabled the Argentine to blast an unstoppable half volley into the top corner. The wonder strike was Carrusca's fourth goal of the season and a worthy contender for one of the goals of Season 8.

In his 150th appearance for the club, Cassio was turning in a trademark performance, the Reds' pocket rocket prominent and playing a hand in both goals.

Galekovic made up for his earlier error as he denied Gameiro, opportunities continuing to come at both ends but there was no further addition to the score at the break.

The Reds were being forced to do some desperate defending as Wellington chased an equaliser early in the second half, before the home side was aided in the 69th minute when McKain was shown his second yellow card of the game and subsequent red card, for a challenge on Vince Lia, leaving United to play out the rest of the game with ten men.

McKain's red card, the Reds' first of the season, means the defender will miss Saturday's home game against Brisbane Roar.

An opportunist effort from Brockie went straight into the bread basket of Galekovic as the Reds held onto their lead but in the 80th minute Gameiro, who was proving a constant threat, levelled the game up again as he fired home eight metres.

Galekovic then made up for his earlier blunder as he reeled off a host of sterling saves to deny a late surging Phoenix, first from Gameiro in the 84th minute and then from Paul Ifill to ensure the Reds returned from New Zealand with something to show for their efforts.

Adelaide United's Nigel Boogaard clears the danger away from Jeremy Brockie (WP). Photo: PETER McDONALD

Match Stats

3	Saves	7
9	Attempts on target	5
12	Attempts off target	6
44%	Possession	56%
13	Corners	4
3	Offsides	2
13	Fouls committed	9

Man of the Match
Paul Ifill
(Weelington Phoenix)

Cassio (AUFC) attempts to close down the effort of Andrew Durante (Phoenix). Photo: PETER McDONALD

Young gun Corey Gameiro (Phoenix) gives chase in the penalty area. Photo: PETER McDONALD

ADP steals hearts as Heart steals points

Melbourne Heart 3

Sydney FC 1

Match Details

Melbourne Heart FC 3
(Nick Kalmar 31', Jonathan Germano 35', David Williams 54')
Sydney FC 1 (Joel Griffiths 58')
Venue: AAMI Park
Referee: Alan Milliner
Sunday 24 February
Attendance: 13,752

Melbourne Heart: 20. Andrew Redmayne, 4. Simon Colosimo, 8. Matthew Thompson, 11. Richard Garcia, 13. Jonatan Germano (16. Marcel Meeuwis 82'), 15. David Williams, 17. Jason Hoffman, 18. David Vrankovic, 21. Jamie Coyne, 22. Nick Kalmar (5.Fred 66'), 25. Jeremy Walker, 36. Eli Babalj (14. Golgol Mebrahtu 72')

Unused substitutes: 1.Clint Bolton,
Yellow cards: Jonathan Germano 35', David Williams 90 + 2'
Red cards: Nil

Sydney FC: 20. Vedran Janjetovic, 2. Sebastian Ryall, 3. Fabio, 7. Brett Emerton, 9. Paul Reid (17. Terry Antonis 46'), 10. Alessandro Del Piero, 13. Tiago Calvano, 23. Rhyan Grant, 26. Peter Triantis, 29. Joel Griffiths (16. Joel Chianese 66'), 32. Lucas Neill.

Unused substitutes: 1. Ivan Necevski, 8. Adam Griffiths.
Yellow cards: Paul Reid 33', Joel Griffiths 47', Tiago Calvano 70'
Red cards: Sebastian Ryall 54'

By Roy Hay

Melbourne Heart entertained its largest home crowd for a league match of 13,752 (apart from those against cross-town rival Victory), with a thumping three-one win over Sydney FC. The opening spell was somewhat languid in the heat and humidity but once Heart got its opening goal the crowd came to life and the rest was full of incident and some excellent play by both sides.

Heart was close to full strength but missing Patrick Gerhardt in central defence, while Sydney gave Socceroo skipper Lucas Neill his first start to the manifest annoyance of the home support, who booed his every touch of the ball.

Both sides tended to play in front of the opposition defences in the early stages so most of the few shots on goal were from distance, and even when well struck failed to trouble the keepers. Nick Kalmar was bundled over by Tiago Calvano but unlike his free kick two weeks ago this one was safely grabbed by Vedran Janjetovic even though it was curved around the wall. Alessandro del Piero had one good shot from outside the area, but Andrew Redmayne was alert and held it reasonably comfortably. When the Heart keeper came out to punch an effort by Joel Griffiths he only knocked it to the Italian star who attempted to lob him but the ball drifted wide.

Heart then made what turned out to be a decisive break in the 31st minute. Richard Garcia knocked a ball over the defence where it was headed back by David Williams via Jonathan Germano who set up Nick Kalmar and the big midfielder controlled it before beating Vedran Janjetovic. That enlivened what had been a soporific opening spell according to some watchers.

Only five minutes later Heart doubled its advantage. David Vrankovic sent a through ball forward in the direction of Eli Babalj who neatly deflected it into the path of Jonathan Germano. Germano still had to make ground before firing his shot past Janjetovic. Germano was booked for pulling his shirt over his head in celebration of what had been an excellent and uplifting goal. Heart had a nother couple of good chances late in the first half, but that ended just after del Piero found Brett Emerton in the clear, but the Socceroo midfielder headed over.

At half-time Frank Farina took off Paul Reid and brought on Joel Chianese as Sydney tried to chase the game. However it was Heart which got the next goal.

Eight minutes into the second half, David Williams outstripped the defence and Sebastian Ryall barrelled into him inside the penalty area as Janjetovic came out to block. It was a clear penalty but referee Alan Milliner added a red card to Ryall for denying the initial goalscoring opportunity. Williams took the penalty and sent the keeper the wrong way.

Three minutes later Joel Griffiths gave his side a glimmer of hope by turning David Vrankovic on the edge of the Heart penalty area before burying the ball past Andrew Redmayne. The ten men of Sydney kept trying to find another opening, but Heart played the ball around reasonably well in the heat and sprang a number of quick breaks against an undermanned and tiring defence. Even defender Jeremy Walker got into a shooting position after a typical rapid support run but his final shot was straight at the keeper. When Heart continued to miss opportunities to score Sydney had a chance of putting real pressure on them with a second goal, but they also missed the fewer chances they managed to create. Andrew Redmayne collected Jamie Coyne's boot in his face after the two scrambled to keep out del Piero, so there were four minutes of extra time added on by the referee, but Heart kept the door closed until that was played out.

Frank Farina thought his team was flat from the start, though he could not put his finger on a specific reason why that should be after a longer week between games. John Aloisi was understandably delighted with the all round effort and sees no reason why Heart cannot end its poor away record even though the match against the Phoenix will be played well down the South Island of New Zealand in Dunedin next week.

Man of the Match
Nick Kalmar
(Melbourne Heart)

Eli Babalj gets a ride from penalty scorer David Williams in front of a packed AAMI Park. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Match Stats

5	Saves	9
12	Attempts on target	6
7	Attempts off target	7
53%	Possession	47%
3	Corners	5
5	Offsides	1
9	Fouls committed	13

Heart's Nick Kalmar pulls the trigger and manages to find the back of the net through a sea of legs. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Joel Griffiths scored a super goal to pull one back for the Sky Blues. Photo: ANITA MILAS

PICS OF ROUND 22

Les Shorrock's Action Packed Picture Page

Lucky winners of a Phoenix guernsey design competition find a nice place to park their motor. Photo: PETER McDONALD

Heart's Jeremy Walker receives the Blue Ribbon Cup Award for BOG from Assistant Commissioner Andrew Crisp. The Blue Ribbon Cup honours police officers who have fallen in the line of duty. Photo: ANITA MILAS

While you watch the football from the comfort of your home look what these blokes have to put up with to bring you the best from behind the scenes. Oh well, that's showbusiness folks! PHOTO: PETER NEVILLE

The Cove on tour against Melbourne Heart. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Socceroo Captain Lucas Neill in action in his new Sydney FC colurs. Photo: ANITA MILAS

Hearts' Germano does his best impression of a masked wrestler. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

It's all smiles over in West Sydney at the moment. Photo: ALI ERHAN

The Yellow Fever give thanks to now former coach Ricki Herbert . Photo: CRAIG McINTOSH

Adelaide United v Brisbane Roar

Sat Mar 02 Hindmarsh Stdm 5:30pm

Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene Galekovic (gk) (c)
2.Osama Malik
3.Nigel Boogaard
5.Iain Fyfe
6.Cassio
8.Marcelo Carrusca
10.Dario Vidosic
12.Antony Golec
14.Cameron Watson
17.Iain Ramsay
18.Fabian Barbiero
20.Paul Izzo (gk)
21.Jeronimo Neumann
23.Evan Kostopoulos
24.Awer Mabil
25.Tomi Juric
(One to be omitted)

Ins: Iain Fyfe (returns from suspension), Jeronimo Neumann (returns from stomach virus)

Out: Jon McKain (suspended – 1 match)

Unavailable: Bruce Djite (ankle – 1 week)

By Matt Mays

Brisbane Roar will be hoping to re-ignite their finals hopes when they visit an out-of-form Adelaide United side at Hindmarsh on Saturday night.

With just one win in their last five in the A League, plus a run of two straight defeats, the Reds will be hoping to maintain some decent form after almost certain to finish in the top six.

The last time the sides met was back on Boxing Day with Adelaide giving Roar a Christmas to remember snatching all three points giving their new British-born boss Mulvey his first win.

Since then, the Reds have also attained a new man at the top themselves. Since the take-over of Valkanis though Adelaide have only succumbed to a single victory.

If you're a fan of a goal fest, then maybe this tie is one to stay away from. The previous two matches this year have both finished 1-0, to the away team in fact.

Fans seem to forget that Brisbane are the champions, and are by no means out of contention to retain their title. Of course, massive outsiders, but the beauty of the A League gives teams a chance if they are still in the hunt. The Roar are just two points off the last finals spot and are fighting to finish top of a 'mini-league' with Melbourne Heart, Sydney, Perth and Wellington.

Winger Franjic believes his team need a minimum of ten points from their last five games to clinch a spot. "If we keep winning we don't have to worry about other results. Four wins should be enough."

Adelaide is on a bit of clean-sheet drought at the moment but have their strike force to thank in recent weeks. New signing Tomi Juric will be looking to open his account on home soil after a solid two goals in his first two appearances. However the Roar will have to try and keep Jeromino Neumann quite. The Argentine has an exceptional home record this season, scoring in no less than seven games, but having scored not a single goal away from home.

The Reds will have to cope without the suspended McKain after his red card at the Phoenix last week. Malik is expected to return in his place after some recent solid performances.

Brisbane however is still waiting for their young Dutchman Stef Nijland to make an impact. Since joining from PSV, the youngster has yet to tally either a goal or an assist.

Adelaide go into the game embarrassed after a job advert advertised for the role of head coach was posted unauthorised and was taken down immediately by the FFA.

The ad asked for "good knowledge of the English language" but Chairman Greg Griffin defended the club and stated it was not their doing.

"The ad should never have been placed. It's an entirely unauthorised act so I will not spend one second defending the content."

ABC Radio Coverage - 891 Adelaide & ABC Local Radio South Australia, 612 Brisbane & ABC Local Radio Queensland Grandstand Digital Brisbane, Adelaide & online

Reds Ready To Roar

As A Matter Of Fact

- Boxing Day marked the last time Henrique scored a goal in the Roar's 1-0 win over Adelaide
- Neither team has managed to score more than one goal in the last four clashes between the teams
- Brisbane Roar have enjoyed their trips to Adelaide of late, notching wins on three of their last five visits to Hindmarsh Stadium
- Adelaide boast an impressive home record this season, winning eight of their eleven clashes at Hindmarsh Stadium
- Eugene Galekovic is poised to make his 150th A-League appearance
- Besart Berisha is set to line up for the Brisbane Roar for the 50th time, as always looking to add to his impressive tally of 33 career goals

Kiss of Death
AUFC 1-0 Roar

Roar Line Up

1. Michael Theo (gk)
3. Shane Stefanutto
4. Matt Jurman
5. Ivan Franjic
7. Besart Berisha
8. Massimo Murdocca
9. Stef Nijland
10. Henrique
11. Ben Halloran
13. Jade North
14. Steven Lustica
15. James Donachie
17. Mitch Nichols
18. Luke Brattan
19. Jack Hingert
20. Matt Acton (gk)
22. Thomas Broich (c)
25. George Lambadaridis.
*three to be omitted

Ins: 8. Massimo Murdocca (returns from injury), 4. Matt Jurman (promoted), 25. George Lambadaridis (promoted)

Outs: Nil
Unavailable: 2. Matt Smith (hip – season)

CC Mariners v W Sydney Wanderers

Sat Mar 02 Bluetongue Stadium 7:45pm

Mariners Line Up

1. Mathew Ryan (Gk)
2. Daniel McBreen
3. Joshua Rose
4. Pedj Bojic
5. Zachary Anderson
6. Patrick Zwaanswijk
7. John Hutchinson (c)
8. Adriano Pellegrino
9. Bernie Ibini
11. Oliver Bozanic
13. Brent Griffiths
14. Michael McGlinchey
15. Brad McDonald
16. Trent Sainsbury
17. Anthony Caceres
18. Nick Montgomery
19. Mitchell Duke
20. Justin Pasfield (Gk)
21. Mile Sterjovski
24. Hayden Morton
29. Nick Fitzgerald
(Six to be omitted)

Ins: 8. Adriano Pellegrino, 13. Brent Griffiths, 15. Brad McDonald, 17. Anthony Caceres, 21. Mile Sterjovski, 24. Hayden Morton (all promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 23. Adam Kwasnik (knee – season)

By Adrian Deans

In a way, this is the biggest game ever at Bluetongue. Non-finals game at least.

The Mariners have been there or thereabouts a few times over the years and have won two Premier's Plates. They've made three Grand Finals, but they've never won, and they've never been favourites.

This year, they are.

Perennial underdogs, the Mariners have been far and away the best team all season. They've had the death kiss of 'favourites' thrust upon them but, with the odd stagger here and there, have coped well with that burden. On their day, they are easily the best team in the league, and more often than not it has been their day. They've thrashed Sydney FC, Wellington and Victory and comfortably accounted for most others.

But not the Wanderers.

Two games so far, and we've seen a nil nil draw and a one nil win to the Mariners. Both games were tight and could easily have gone the other way. This time, the Wanderers have the momentum of seven wins on the spin and, even more importantly, will bring the largest mob of travelling fans to a regular season match in the history of the competition (not counting the Melbourne and Sydney derbies).

The Wanderers fans will come in their thousands to Bluetongue and will be very loud indeed. In contrast, the Mariners have by far the smallest catchment population of any A-League club and only a small active support. The Yellow Army fill one bay on a good day. The RBB have already sold out five.

And the RBB have a further advantage. They will all be under cover – meaning their noise will be trapped and reverberating. The Yellow Army always stand at the uncovered northern end and what noise they do make is mostly lost. This means an enormous challenge to the regular Mariners fans, who mostly sit under cover, to match the noise of the RBB.

As far as the actual teams are concerned – the Mariners just flogged third-placed Victory in a cyclone and the Wanderers struggled to beat ninth-placed Perth. But we all know that football is a fickle mistress of very uncertain favours. You can't ever predict a result with genuine certainty in this league and Saturday night will be a white-knuckle ride.

They will have played a Champions' League game midweek, but I think the Mariners are the better team and have the better players (Shinji notwithstanding). Their defence has been rock-solid all season and in the likes of McGlinchey, Ibini, Duke, McBreen (plus the wide backs) they have the ammunition to tear any team to shreds. But they might be shocked on Saturday night by the noise and passion of the enemy fans in their own backyard.

That's why Mariners fans have to press-gang all their mates, drag them along and make them sing and shout for the home team.

You get out-sung at home and you don't deserve to win.

A Battle of the Twelfth Man?

Kiss of Death
Mariners 3-2 wanderers

As A Matter Of Fact

- Daniel McBreen bagged a brace in the Mariners last start against the Wanderers, gifting them a 2-0 win
- Western Sydney Wanderers are on the verge of an A-League record-equalling 8th consecutive victory when they face arguably their biggest challenge in the Mariners
- Western Sydney Wanderers have an outstanding 7w-1d-3l record both at home and on the road
- Central Coast have won 50% of their games after backing up from scoring five or more goals (2w-1d-1l)
- Central Coast have won nine of their ten games at Bluetongue Stadium this season, also claiming a draw for a near perfect record at home

Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante Covic (GK)
2. Shannon Cole
3. Adam D'Apuzzo
4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley
5. Michael Beauchamp
6. Jerome Polenz
7. Labinot Haliti
8. Mateo Poljak
9. Dino Kresinger
10. Aaron Mooy
11. Tarek Elrich
13. Joey Gibbs
14. Kwabena Appiah-Kubi
15. Reece Caira
16. Rocky Visconte
17. Youssouf Hersi
18. Iacopo La Rocca
19. Mark Bridge
20. Jerrad Tyson (GK)
21. Shinji Ono
23. Jason Trifiro
(Six to be omitted)

Ins: 7. Labinot Haliti, 11. Tarek Elrich, 15. Reece Caira, 16. Rocky Visconte, 23. Jason Trifiro (all promoted), 8. Mateo Poljak (returns from injury)

Outs: nil

Unavailable: 12. Tahj Minniecon (foot season)

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Perth Glory v Sydney FC

Sat Mar 02 nib Stadium 9:45pm

Glory Line Up

1.Danny Vukovic (gk)
2.Jack Clisby
5.Steve Pantelidis
6.Nick Ward
8.Dean Heffernan
9.Shane Smeltz
10.Liam Miller
12.Ryo Nagai
13.Travis Dodd
14.Steven McGarry
15.Brandon O'Neill
17.Chris Harold
18.Matias Cordoba
19.Josh Risdon
21.Scott Jamison
22.Ndumba Makeche
23.Michael Thwaite
24.Storm Roux
30 Lewis Italiano (gk)
(Four to be omitted)

Ins: 15.Brandon O'Neill, 22.Ndumba Makeche, 24.Storm Roux (all promoted).

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 7. Jacob Burns (back - TBA), 11.Adrian Zahra (hamstring - 1 week)

By FFA

Perth Glory midfielder Travis Dodd has insisted that the men in purple remain very much in the hunt for a finals berth despite last weekend's narrow defeat at the hands of in-form Western Sydney.

A home date with Sydney FC this Saturday night is next on the agenda for Alistair Edwards' side and Dodd is confident that the hosts can recapture the kind of form they showed in their stunning victory over ladder leaders Central Coast a fortnight ago.

"At this stage of the season we just want to beat everyone," he said.

"There are five games to go and we're still well and truly in the finals race and so are Sydney.

"So it's a game in which both sides have everything to play for and it's going to be a matter of who wants the game more and I'm pretty confident that it'll be us.

"We've got belief in each other and the coaching staff's got the belief in the players and likewise.

"We will go out there backing ourselves, the staff and the game plan 100% and I think we saw against the Mariners that it can work because that was a very good performance from the team.

"Hopefully we can repeat that performance on Saturday."

And the man who has skippered the side in Jacob Burns' absence feels that his side will find extra motivation from the memory of the unfortunate defeat they suffered at the hands of the Del Piero and co back in week 4.

I thought we had complete control of that game until the sending off," he said, "and then it swung around again.

"We certainly didn't deserve to lose that one and I believe that what we can do as a team will break them down in the game on Saturday night.

"It's great to have world class players like (Alessandro) Del Piero and Lucas Neill as opposition.

"It's good for the league.

"We've played against Del Piero a couple of times now and we know what he can and can't do, so it's going to be another big test for us, but I'm confident that we can play well, be positive and get the win."

In terms of the impact made by new head coach Alistair Edwards, meanwhile, Dodd feels that the playing group has enthusiastically embraced his training methods and that the Glory faithful will witness an improved level of performance from their side as the campaign enters its final furlong.

"It's a different style of coaching," he said.

"Alistair is working a lot on our structure and our transition moments and making sure that we're not exposed on counter-attacks and that kind of thing.

"We're working hard and hopefully it'll pay off and we'll feel the benefits during the games.

"The first week they (Edwards and assistant Gareth Naven) came in, they worked the boys pretty hard and now I think there's a good understanding of the game plan and the way he wants us to play.

As A Matter Of Fact

- When these teams last met, late goals were traded but neither team could break the 2-2 stalemate
- Perth Glory have not tasted success against the Sky Blues since 22 November 2009, a winless streak of 10 matches
- Sydney FC have lost just once in all of their eleven clashes at nib Stadium, including three wins from their last four games there

Kiss of Death
Glory 2-2 Sydney FC

Sydney FC Line Up

1. Ivan Necevski (gk)
3. Fabio
7. Brett Emerton
8. Adam Griffiths
9. Paul Reid
10. Alessandro Del Piero
12. Blake Powell
13. Tiago Calvano
15. Terry McFlynn
16. Joel Chianese
17. Terry Antonis
20. Vedran Janjetovic (gk)
21. Yairo Yau
22. Ali Abbas
23. Rhyan Grant
26. Peter Triantis
29. Joel Griffiths
32. Lucas Neill
(Three to be omitted)

Ins: Terry McFlynn (returns from injury), Ali Abbas (promoted), Yairo Yau (returns from illness), Blake Powell (promoted).

Out: Sebastian Ryall (suspended)

Unavailable: 2. Sebastian Ryall (suspended, 1 week), Pascal Bosschaart (heel, season), Kruno Lovrek (knee, 3 weeks)

Wellington Phoenix v Melbourne Heart

Sun Mar 03 Forsyth , Dunedin 2:30pm

Phoenix Line Up

Mark Paston (GK)
2. Manny Muscat
3.Tony Lochhead
7. Leo Bertos
8. Paul Ifill
10. Stein Huysegems
11. Jeremy Brockie
12. Tyler Boyd
16. Louis Fenton
17. Vince Lia
18. Ben Sigmund
20. Glen Moss (GK)
21. Dani Sanchez
22. Andrew Durante (C)
23. Corey Gameiro.

Ins: Nil.

Outs: Nil..

Unavailable: 4. Isaka Cernak (hip flexor 1-2 weeks), 19. Jimmy Downey (knee – indefinite)

By Joe Gallagher

As professional football returns to New Zealand's South Island on Sunday, Wellington's ambitions for the season could be drastically adjusted.

Pending the result of Wednesday night's game against the Jets, the Phoenix could be all but eliminated from the playoffs race for the trip to Dunedin to face fellow playoff challengers Melbourne Heart.

The visitors are right amongst the race for the last two finals spots, and a trip to a struggling Phoenix side might be a prime opportunity for John Aloisi's men to pick up a third win in four games, and to establish a foothold within the league's top five.

Aloisi has applauded the performance of his side in Sunday's 3-1 win over fellow contenders Sydney FC which saw the mid-table logjam tighten further.

His opposite, Chris Greenacre, will take charge of just his third Phoenix game, and his second since the inevitable resignation of Ricki Herbert on Tuesday.

Greenacre has called for his team to come together for one last push at the playoffs, and with two of their last three games in Australia he will need to target three points not just from the midweek visit of Newcastle, but also the trip to Forsyth Barr Stadium.

The troubled club simply cannot afford to look any further afield than that.

Wellington has not lost to Melbourne Heart this season – recording a 1-1 draw in Greenacre's first match in charge while Herbert was on international duty, and consolidating it with a pulsating 3-2 win in Wellington in December. It says plenty about the Phoenix's strife of late that since that win, the side had picked up just five points before Wednesday's game.

They'll have fond memories of Otago as well, recording an impressive 2-0 win over champions Brisbane Roar under the roof last season. That win, ironically, registered as one of Herbert's most tactically memorable in his six year spell at the club.

It also marked a sparkling display by Wellington star Paul Ifill, who has been out of sorts of late before showing glimpses of his class late on against Adelaide on Sunday.

A rise in his form will be absolutely essential if Wellington are to make a late charge for the league's post-season.

Aloisi will view this game as critical, given that three of his final four matches are against sides above him on the ladder. Melbourne's bid for a second consecutive bite at the title may hinge on his ability to unlock a side which he has traditionally found challenging.

In a trend very familiar to the Phoenix, Aloisi will have to overcome a dour record outside of Victoria which has seen them fail to win in 15 attempts since December 2011.

They will extend their stay in New Zealand by a day in an attempt to overcome the effects of any travel, highlighting just how seriously Aloisi considers this game to his season's ambitions.

The game may depend on just how well the local community responds to the match. A large crowd could give the Phoenix the edge, but if dwindling numbers in Wellington are anything to go by, the Heart may just be able to view this game as a neutral ground for both sides.

Kiss of Death
Phoenix 1-0 Heart

As A Matter Of Fact

- A Brockie double mid-way through the second half was enough to save a 3-2 victory for the Phoenix in their last encounter with the Heart
- Wellington will take the A-League to Forsyth Barr Stadium for only the second time looking to continue a perfect record there after their 2-0 victory over Brisbane Roar late in 2011
- Melbourne Heart will be looking for their first away win of the season, claiming just a solitary point away from Melbourne in the 2012/13 season so far
- Matt Thompson is only two appearances shy of becoming the first player in A-League history to play 200 games, serving both Newcastle Jets and Melbourne Heart in his tenure dating back to the inaugural season of the A-League

Heart Line Up

1. Clint Bolton (GK)
4. Simon Colosimo
5. Fred
6. Patrick Gerhardt
8. Matt Thompson
11. Richard Garcia
13. Jonatan German
14. Golgol Mebrahtu
15. David Williams
16, Marcel Meeuwis
17. Jason Hoffman
18. David Vrankovic
19. Ben Garuccio
20. Andrew Redmayne (GK)
21. Jamie Coyne
22. Nick Kalmar
25. Jeremy Walker
36. Eli Babalj
(Three to be omitted)

Ins: 6. Patrick Gerhardt (returns from suspension), 17. Jason Hoffman (promoted), 19. Ben Garuccio (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 10. Josip Tadic (broken toe – one week), 23. Mate Dugandzic (broken foot – season)

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Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets

Sun Mar 03 AAMI Park 5:00pm

Victory Line Up

1. Tando Velaphi (GK)
3. Adama Traore
5. Mark Milligan
6. Leigh Broxham
8. Jonathan Bru
10. Archie Thompson
11. Marco Rojas
13. Diogo Ferreira
14. Billy Celeski
17. Jimmy Jeggo
18. Francesco Stella
21. Spase Dilevski
22. Jesse Makarounas
23. Adrian Leijer
26. Andrew Nabbout
31. Scott Galloway
32. Connor Pain
33. Daniel Mullen
39. Nathan Coe (GK)

(Four to be omitted)

Ins: 17. Jimmy Jeggo, 22. Jesse Makarounas (both promoted), 10.Archie Thompson (returns from injury)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 9. Marcos FLORES (injured), 7. Gui FINKLER (knee) 24.Nick ANSELL (groin)

By Andrew Bishara

A couple of weeks ago, they were battling for top spot. Now the Victory are fourth, with only the faintest hopes of catching up. Eight points behind the second placed Western Sydney Wanderers, only a massive drop in form from them and the Central Coast will spark any hope of catching up. Not to mention, that Adelaide are third above the Victory on goal difference.

But that hasn't dented Ange Postecoglou's spirits. He's adamant that competition points weren't important to him at the moment, but the level of performance from his players.

"It means we have to win next week, that doesn't really change. We've certainly got to perform better than we did (against the Mariners) and bridge the gap between ourselves and the top two in a performance sense rather than worrying too much about the points," Postecoglou said.

"If you don't perform to a good level - or the level that you need to - you are going to get punished. On that performance we are well short of where we want to be."

The Victory has lost their last three games on the bounce, all against the top three teams in the competition, accumulating in that record 6-2 defeat against the Mariners. Outplayed from the beginning, there was only ever going to be one outcome.

However, Victory does have the whole "injury" excuse. They aren't a team loaded up with squad depth, meaning when their key players are out, they have to rely on the younger players to get them through. It might work sometimes, but in the pressure cooker environment of the A-League, it usually does.

Postecoglou is hopeful that Archie Thompson will return from a hamstring tear, but will have to wait until the last minute. Argentine Marcos Flores will definitely miss the match, and possibly the following week against the Brisbane Roar.

It was the Roar that the Jets faced last week, in a 0-0 draw, leaving them on the edge of the finals spot. They are one of three teams locked on 27 points, the others being the Melbourne Heart and Sydney, with the Roar two points behind.

The inconsistent form of the Jets has meant that every game from here to the final round is a must-win. However, before they face the Victory, they have to travel to Wellington to face the Phoenix in a re-scheduled tie.

This could prove a problem for Gary van Egmond, who will have to rotate his squad to keep everyone fresh. It will be three games in a week for the Jets and come next Sunday, fatigue could be a big problem. The positive though, is that the Jets don't have any major injury concerns, so van Egmond has a full squad to chose from.

Lose both games and the Jets could find themselves in a bit of a problem. Which makes this Victory clash all that more important, but with Melbourne eager to bounce back, expect the Jets to crash.

Kiss of Death
Victory 2-0 Jets

As A Matter Of Fact

- Melbourne Victory secured a 3-2 victory after a second half goal to Rojas buried the Jets in their last encounter
- Last time Melbourne Victory conceded more than four goals, they used it as a catalyst for a gutsy 2-1 win the following week
- Melbourne Victory have now lost three games in succession for the first time since November 2005 and, should they fail to claim any points against the Jets on Sunday, will fall to a club record fourth straight defeat
- Newcastle Jets have won just once in their last eight excursions to the Victorian capital
- Newcastle Jets have managed to score first in a match on only seven occasions this season, the worst record in the league

Jets Line Up

NEWCASTLE JETS SQUAD NOT PROVIDED AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

Newcastle Jets squad that travelled to Wellington:

1. Ben Kennedy (gk)
3. Zenon Caravella
5. Dominik Ritter
8. Ruben Zadkovich
9. Emile Heskey
12. Josh Brillante
13. Sam Gallaway
14. Taylor Regan
15. Craig Goodwin
17. James Virgili
19. Michael Bridges
20. Mark Birighitti (gk)
21. Marko Jesic
22. Adam Taggart
25. Mitch Cooper
26. Andrew Hoole.

Ins: Nil

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Ben Kantarovski (Knee/Season), Ryan Griffiths (transferred to China)

New Finals System lacks integrity

A-League Rewind

By Robert Di Fabio

As many A-League fans will be well aware, this season's finals series has been given a facelift. The format is a revised three-week format, which embodies more of a knockout style cup competition, as opposed to a traditional play-off system in years gone by. However, as often is the case with problematic procedures, the end result is far from ideal.

In the 2012-13 campaign, the top six teams will play-off for the championship prize. Although, this time around the top two clubs will not get the usual double chance, as seen since the A-League's inauguration. The reward for finishing first or second is a week off. The top clubs will host the two winners from the third to sixth matches, with the eventual winners to lock horns in the Grand Final.

There are numerous blunders in this system; it's difficult to know where to begin.

In any finals series, the seeded teams – the top two in this case – should always qualify for a double chance. It's seen in other football codes like the AFL and NRL, where the top four are granted with a double chance. It seems bizarre, after a gruelling 27-game campaign, the top outfits can be knocked out after one average performance.

Unlike other football codes, a week's break in the round-ball game doesn't necessarily have the desired advantage for the seeded teams. If anything, it will most probably work in the opposite direction. Clubs can very well play two games within a week, so a week's break shouldn't be too much of an advantage for the rested teams. Additionally, the rhythm and impetus leading into the business end of the season can very well be hampered.

While the top two are at a clear disadvantage this year, it's the opposite effect for teams finishing from third to sixth position. Unlike previous seasons, the preliminary final fixture has been abolished. Meaning, the lower ranked teams only need to win two games to play-off for the championship. Far from a fair scenario.

To illustrate the imbalance in this revamped finals system, in theory fifth can host sixth in the Grand Final. A rather ludicrous and embarrassing scenario if this was to occur. Imagine this, a Grand Final – the highlight on the Australian football calendar – where both outfits have lost more matches than they've triumphed throughout the season. The integrity of the league would certainly come under serious duress.

This development couldn't transpire in previous seasons, as the winner of the first versus second two-legged affair would earn a grand final berth, and win the honour to host the event in the process.

Let's be honest, it's bad enough that six teams, in a 10-club competition can qualify for the finals series. The formula for success shouldn't reward mediocrity.

Nonetheless, the game's national governing body Football Federation Australia felt the need to tinker with the system, once again. Was it to produce a fairer, sound and enhanced finals system, or was it a poor attempt to manufacture a more exciting play-off structure?

The latter would seemingly be the case.

FFA was reportedly concerned with the growing trend of poor crowds in preliminary finals matches in seasons gone past. In the last four fixtures, dating back to the2008-09 edition crowds have been as follows: 8,400 at Hindmarsh Stadium, 13,196 at Allianz Stadium, 7,539 and 7,572 at Bluetongue Stadium.

Yes, crowds were not fantastic; however it's a complete over exaggeration to compromise the integrity and fairness of the finals series for this very reason. There has also been talk about the repetitive nature of the top two teams playing each other twice in the two-legged affair, before battling it out again in the Grand Final. While this occurred five from the opening seven A-League seasons, it was the most comprehensive system at the time.

It will be interesting to see how FFA reacts, if say fifth were to host sixth in this year's finale. Let's hope this isn't the case.

Follow Robert on Twitter @ RobertDiFabio

Hyundai Goal for Grassroots

Congratulations to Ringwood City Soccer Club for being selected as the Hyundai Goals For Grassroots junior club for Round 22.
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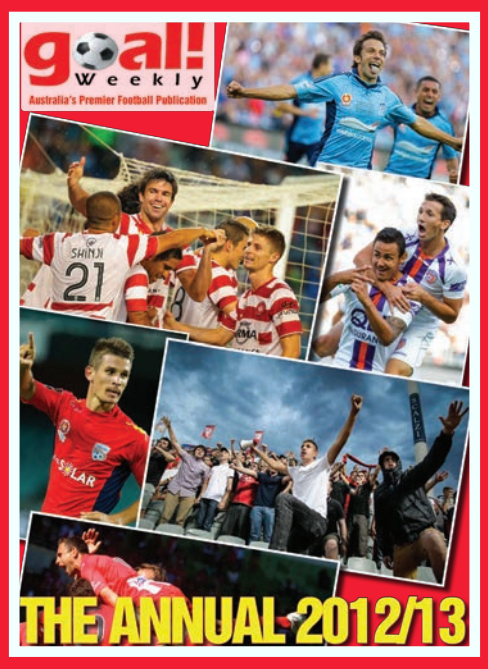

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5

FFV State Knockout Cups Kick-Off This Weekend

The 2013 FFV Men's and Women's State Knockout Cups will kick-off this weekend with Round One matches being held around Victoria.

Following a successful inaugural women's tournament in 2012, team entries have increased by over 25 percent with 37 teams contesting the 2013 cup.

94 teams will compete in the men's tournament, continuing its reign as the largest state-wide knockout tournament in Australia.

As well as teams from around Melbourne, regional teams from Ballarat, Bendigo, Cobram, Geelong, Kilmore, Kyneton, Shepparton, Wangaratta and Warrnambool will compete in knockout football in 2013.

All teams from the Victorian Premier League and the Women's Premier League will take part, with the exception of VPL side Hume City who chose not to enter in 2013.

Due to the number of team entries, 24 teams were randomly drawn to play in Round One of the men's tournament with the remaining teams receiving a bye until Round Two. The 12 Round One winners will join the other teams in Round Two, making for 64 teams total in this stage.

Cobram Victory will hope to emulate its giant killing cup run of last season when it made it to the semis finals

Similarly, ten teams were randomly drawn for Round One of the women's tournament with the remaining 27 receiving a bye until Round Two. The five Round One winners will join the other teams to make a total of 32 teams in Round Two.

The sixteen highest ranked men's teams have byes to Round Four while there were no predetermined byes in the women's cup.

2012 Men's State Knockout Cup Champions Dandenong Thunder will enter the tournament in Round Four along with the rest of the VPL teams while Box Hill United have been drawn against Eltham Redbacks in Round One as they aim to defend their 2012 Women's State Knockout Cup.

FFV CEO Peter Gome said that the two knockout cups are among the most popular fixtures on the Victorian football calendar.

"Knockout tournaments of this scale are one of the defining aspects of football worldwide and I'm glad to see the State Knockout Cups continuing this year," he said.

"Nothing beats knockout football for excitement and the tournaments have been embraced by the Victorian football community, making Victoria a leader in this format of the game."

Round Two of the Men's State Knockout Cup will be played on the following weekend (9-10 March) with Round Two of the Women's State Knockout Cup to be held on 16-17 March.

Fixtures for each subsequent round will be drawn on the Monday following the previous round's fixtures.

Fixtures for Round One and Round Two are subject to change. Anyone planning to attend is advised to check the fixtures on the FFV website closer to the match date.

Round One Men's Knockout Cup fixtures

Boroondara Eagles v Ringwood City
Knox Regional Football Centre, Wantirna South
8:30pm Friday 1 March

Monash University v Waverley Victory
Knox Regional Football Centre, Wantirna South
12:30pm Saturday 2 March

Sunshine George Cross v North Sunshine Eagles
Chaplin Reserve, Sunshine
3:00pm Saturday 2 March

Mornington v Peninsula Strikers
Dallas Brooks Park, Mornington
3:00pm Saturday 2 March

Collingwood City v Croydon City Arrows
Dorset Recreation Reserve, Croydon
3:00pm Saturday 2 March

Watsonia Heights v Kyneton District
James Reserve, Heidelberg
3:00pm Saturday 2 March

Westvale v Essendon Royals
Reggio Calabria Club, Brunswick
3:00pm Saturday 2 March

Cobram v Mitchell Rangers
To Be Confirmed

St Albans Saints v Melton Phoenix
MacPherson Reserve, Melton
3:00pm Saturday 2 March

Cobram Victory v Strathmore
To Be Confirmed

Ballarat Red Devils v Truganina Hornets
Trekardo Park, Ballarat
3:00pm Saturday 2 March

Whitehorse United v Malvern City
Knox Regional Football Centre
3:30pm Saturday 2 March

Northern Falcons v Bundoora United
State Football Centre, Thornbury
4:00pm Saturday 2 March

Whittlesea United v Brunswick City
Dunstan Reserve, Brunswick West
5:30pm Saturday 2 March

Round One Women's Knockout Cup fixtures

Croydon City Arrows v Manningham United
Dorset Recreation Reserve, Croydon
8:30pm Friday 1 March

South Melbourne Women v Bundoora United
Hillsview Recreation Reserve,
11:00am Sunday 3 March

Eltham Redbacks v Box Hill United
Eltham North Reserve, Eltham North
1:00pm Sunday 3 March

Western Eagles v Albert Park
Polish Sports and Recreation Complex, Albion
1:00pm Sunday 3 March

Kingston City v Albert Park
The Grange Reserve, Clayton South
5:00pm Sunday 3 March

Glory in gold sends football message

Perth Glory's new coach Alistair Edwards took his players to Gibbney Reserve during the week to draw attention to WA football's plight for a new home.

Soccer's peak body Football West is based in a converted pavilion at the Maylands venue, where the state's National Training Centre development squads and Glory W-League team train.

In recent times, Glory have trained mainly at McGillivray Oval in Mt Claremont, although their nomadic existence has taken them around the metropolitan area, including spells on Loton Park, which is used for parking on match days at nib Stadium.

Glory wore specially produced training shirts in state colours, with the "for football's sake" slogan on the front and www.homeoffootball.com.au on the back, to send a message of support for the project.

Football West is hoping government will commit $20 million to a new home that will be a central base for the controlling body and Perth Glory, as well as a training centre for all elite development and senior squads.

It would include a coach education resource centre, a display area for historic football artefacts and community and corporate facilities.

A small competition venue would be used as a home base for the Perth Glory W-League team and to host some state league, amateur and junior finals.

Glory stand-in captain Travis Dodd, who has taken the armband in the absence of injured regular skipper Jacob Burns, said the players were happy to join the Home of Football cause.

"It's imperative that football in Western Australia has a home," Dodd said.

"If you look around the state at other sporting codes, rugby union has got a state-of-the-art facility, which we use on a daily basis, basketball has got a new facility as well. Where we are training today, this is football's facilities, and to be honest it's not a lot.

"The players are right behind the push for a Home of Football... you want to set a high standard on and off the park and I think that can start with the facilities that are available."

Perth Glory's Stev MxcGarry give the thumbs up for a WA home.

Former Glory star Jamie Harnwell, now in charge of the women's team and also a development officer with Football West, knows better than most how the game would benefit from a professional home base.

The W-League coach regularly holds training sessions at Gibbney Reserve where there is no hot water for the players to shower.

"To have to train and play and change where there's cold showers and only two of them work, it's not ideal," he said.

Harnwell also pointed out the benefits of having a central training base for Glory and Football West's elite programs.

"I could probably name 15 or 20 training venues we've been through in the time I've been playing (at Glory) and since I've left," said Harnwell, who played 256 games for Glory.

"From McGillivray, Perry Lakes, Morley, nib Stadium, (we went) all over the place. So, to actually get a place where you can go day in day out and set yourself up, set your training up, would be huge for Perth Glory and also for WA football.

"There are so many good things that can come out of it."

Fans can join the push by visiting www.homeoffootball.com.au

Boo's World

SUMMER SERIES

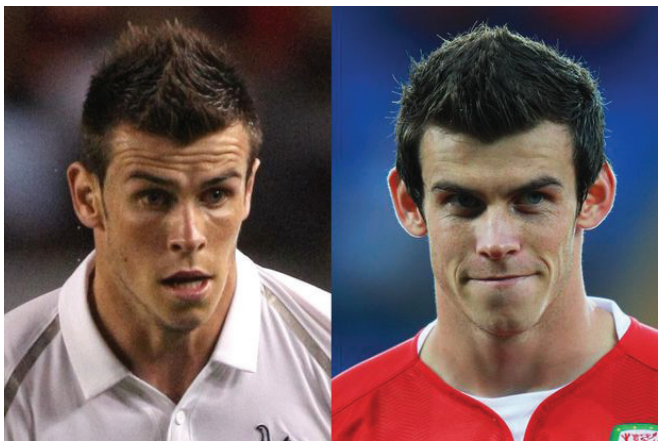
By Mark Boric

Glenn Hoddle, Chris Waddle, Paul Gascoigne and Darren Anderton. That is the lineage of my favourite Spurs players up to the one who's name shall never be mentioned again and can only hereon be referred to as The Black Judas. Now, there is Gareth Bale. His recent hot run of form has seen many big statements made, but right now I will throw in a few massive calls: Greatest Living Welshman - Sorry Tom Jones, you have been usurped. Greatest Welshman Ever - Who is there, Richard Burton? Not even a contest. Greatest Player Never To Play In the World Cup Finals - No, don't move over George Best, Gareth will get Wales through one day.

It took a while, but Bale now stands alongside such former greats as Vinny Samways, Justin Edinburgh and Steve Sedgley as icons of White Hart Lane. For a Spurs fan, nothing beats watching Bale at the moment with the bonus of David Pleat's ramblings on special comments.

At training this week, I suggest Melbourne Victory attach a chain (say, eighteen feet long) to the leg of Nathan Coe and secure it to one of his posts. Or confiscate whatever drugs he was on last weekend. It was a wet and miserable night for Victory who had nothing going forward with both Archie Thompson and Marcos Flores out.

The Mariners fans were having a ball, but erred badly. They chanted they wanted a fifth goal, and got it. They asked for a sixth and sure enough Michael McGlinchey obliged. Why then chant for a seventh? When you are that hot, chant for free beer, cash or hookers! Another goal was not that important at that stage.



Too good to resist here, but can you pick the matching pair? Seems like Spurs superstar Gareth Bale has increased his wind dynamics with a nip and tuck.

Melbourne Heart dodged a bullet when Lucas Neill opted to sign for Sydney FC. Not so much a bullet really, they can move at a considerable pace. More like a land-mine probably, it stays in the same spot and is easy enough to get around if you can see it.

Rumours are circulating as to the extent of the FFV's financial loss for the last year. Apparently it is enough to pay an A-League marquee player or two. To get back in the black, undercover FFV staff will be launching flares at VPL and State League grounds this season so more disciplinary fines can be issued.

For the nostalgic, there is no better site to check out at the moment than The-Locker-Room on Facebook. Great pictures and videos being added daily by the team which includes former star player Doug Hodgson, and gun commentator and On The Ball reporter Greg Blake.

So we come down to the biggest game of the A-League season so far, Central Coast v Western Sydney for top spot on the table with five games remaining. The Wanderers are promising to bring a large contingent of fans to Bluetongue Stadium, which means it is lock up your inflatable sauce bottles time. Not sure who will be on the commentary team, if it is Andy Harper there could be a chance he will die from excessive hyperbole.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

A-League Champion 2012/13

Central Coast Mariners	2.87
West Sydney Wanderers	3.40
Melbourne Victory	5.50
Adelaide United	11.00
Sydney FC	13.00
Brisbane Roar	15.00
Melbourne Heart	15.00
Newcastle Jets	15.00
Perth Glory	34.00
Wellington Phoenix	51.00

Vale Bill Turner

7th May 1929 - 22nd February 2013

2013 FFA Hall of Fame Life Member
Northern NSW Football Life Member I NSW CHS Football

By Greg Danvers

THE Football Family has lost an innovator and great man with the passing of Bill Turner last week to Pancreatic Cancer.

Bill Turner is well known in school football as the figurehead of the Bill Turner Cup which will be contested for the 35th time this year. A high schools knockout competition run in the football states of Queensland, Northern NSW, NSW, ACT and Victoria.

Northern NSW Schools Football Incorporated administers the 15 years and under boy's Bill Turner Cup as well as the girl's equivalent Bill Turner Trophy.

The committee of the day, some 30 plus years ago, had the foresight to name the competition after Bill Turner. Mr Turner, then teacher at Booragul High School, became the driver of the junior high school tournament - he was involved in the formation of the senior boy's Tasman Cup, which later became the Commonwealth Bank Cup and now referred to as the Errea Cup.

"Bill was enormously proud to be associated with Northern NSW Football and Booragul High, where amongst others he coached the Tredinnick brothers and Craig Johnston," said Lindsay Hewison, President of Northern NSW Schools Football.

"Bill was an international referee in the 1960s and refereed amongst others Everton and Dundee. He was a staunch supporter of all referees and claimed he 'watched the ref rather than the game'."

Bill Turner was a lot more than a football man, he was a family man that immersed himself in music, the church, table tennis and wrestling to name a few of his interests, or in most cases his passions. On one occasion his commitment to the church saw him reject an appointment to referee Manchester United.

"Dad refereed around Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and Lake Macquarie regions," said Lloyd Turner.

"He declined refereeing the match between Manchester United and Northern NSW in 1967 due to a conflict with church commitments.

"Bill's family are very proud of his football achievements, he had such a vision to develop junior talent and worked tirelessly while he was a school teacher - organising trials, development programmes and overseas tours.

"The amazing thing was that he concurrently did the same for music - he conducted a 90 voice school choir and organised Hunter Region music festivals that were the forerunner of the Spectaculars of today. Then on the Sunday, he was off to referee at the highest level.

"Bill will be greatly missed by his family, his football family, his church family and the many fellow teachers, students and players who appreciated his ability and humour."

Bill would start work the day after the finals on the next year's Bill Turner Cup and Trophy but in recent years, given his age and at times his health, the committee were more involved in the day to day running of the competitions that encompassed in excess of 400 schools both boys and girls. His influence always shone through - if there was a problem the committee would ask: "Bill what do we do?"

Now they have to ask themselves: "What would Bill have done or said?" The committee, in part, that named the tournament after Bill Turner, in 1979, is still active and with the newcomers, like myself, have the responsibility to uphold Bill's ethos for the Cup and Trophy that bears his name.

"Fun, Fitness and Fair Play and to say NO to Tobacco, Sugar Drinks, Alcohol, Junk Foods, Drugs, False Advertising, Racism, Bullying and Anti Social Behaviour."

Football Federation Australia Chief Executive Officer David Gallop paid tribute to Bill Turner and his services to Football.

"Bill Turner was one of the great pioneers of youth football in Australia and made a prodigious contribution to the game," said Gallop.

"Bill had a vision to develop school football and never lost his drive over four decades. He worked tirelessly for the game he loved, and gave opportunities to so many players and coaches, well beyond his home patch in the Hunter Valley.

"On behalf of the Australian football community, I send condolences to Bill's loved ones and I salute one of the genuine heroes of our game."

Greg Danvers is the Media Manager for the Bill Turner Cup and Trophy Finals Series.

Bill Turner addressing the final eight teams at the 2011 Civic Reception for the Bill Turner Cup and Trophy.

Bill Turner meets with members of the Cavendish Road High School team at the Civic Reception.

Bill Turner with former Matilda's coach Tom Sermanni while watching the talented players in the 2012 Finals of the Bill Turner Trophy.

Former Socceroo goalkeeper Mark Bosnich with the great man himself.

Couch Potato

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

one

Tuesday 5th March
08:30 am Liverpool TV

Friday 8th March
07:30 am Liverpool TV

SETANTA SPORTS

FRIDAY 1ST MARCH
SPL Round 29 Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 24 Preview Show 7:30pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH
npower Championship Round 34 Wolves v Watford 6:40am LIVE
Blue Square Premier Macclesfield v Grimsby 8:45am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 24 Frankfurt v Monchengladbach 2:10pm 1st Airing
Copa Libertadores Second Stage Matchday 3 Highlights Show 7:30pm 1st Airing
Scottish Cup Quarter-Final St Mirren v Celtic 11:40pm LIVE

SUNDAY 3RD MARCH
npower Championship Round 34 Middlesbrough v Cardiff 1:55am LIVE
npower Championship Round 34 Sheff Wed v Nottm Forest 4:15am LIVE
Eredivisie Round 25 Twente v Ajax 6:45am LIVE
Eredivisie Round 25 PSV v VVV 8:45am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 24 Dortmund v Hannover 10:35am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 24 Leverkusen v Stuttgart 12:25pm 1st Airing
Scottish Division 3 Round 28 Rangers v East Stirling 2:15pm 1st Airing
Scottish Cup Quarter-Final Dundee v Dundee Utd 11:40pm LIVE

MONDAY 4TH MARCH
Scottish Cup Quarter-Final Kilmarnock v Hibernian 1:55am LIVE
Primera Division Round 4 Teams TBC 7:20am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 4 Teams TBC 9:10am 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 25 NEC v Feyenoord 11:50am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 24 Hoffenheim v Bayern 5:10pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 24 Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 24 Fortuna v Mainz 11:20pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 5TH MARCH
npower Championship Round 34 Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing
Eredivisie Round 25 Highlights Show 7:30pm 1st Airing

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH
UEFA Europa League Round of 16 1st Leg Teams TBC 4:50am LIVE
UEFA Europa League Round of 16 1st Leg Teams TBC 6:55am LIVE
UEFA Europa League Round of 16 1st Leg Teams TBC 9:00am 1st Airing
Copa Libertadores Second Stage Boca Juniors v Nacional 11:20am LIVE
UEFA Europa League Round of 16 1st Leg Teams TBC 1:30pm 1st Airing
UEFA Europa League Round of 16 1st Leg Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing

SBS

SBS ONE
Sunday March 3rd
10:30 am Football Asia
11:00 am UEFA Champions League Magazinee

Monday March 4th
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:00 pm The World Game

Thursday March 7th
11pm Champions League Hour

SBS TWO
Monday March 4th
9:30 pm The World Game

Thursday March 7th
11pm Champions League Hour

UEFA Champions League

Wednesday 6 March
SBS ONE
6.30am (aedt) - Manchester United v Real Madrid - Live from Old Trafford, Manchester, England. (Round of 16 (2nd Leg).

SBS TWO
9.30pm - Manchester United v Real Madrid - From Old Trafford, Manchester, England. (Round of 16 (2nd Leg). (Rpt)

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE LIVE
Times listed are 7 minutes prior to kick-offs.

English Premier League

WEEK 29
Sun Mar 3 Manchester United v Norwich
1.53 am Fox 1
Sun Mar 3 Chelsea v West Brom
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 3 Everton v Reading
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 3 Southampton v QPR
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 3 Swansea v Newcastle
1.53 am Viewers Choice
Sun Mar 3 Wigan v Liverpool
4.23 am Fox 1
Sun Mar 3 Stoke v West Ham
8.00 am DELAY (Fox 1)
Sun Mar 3 Sunderland v Fulham
9.30 am DELAY (Fox 1)
Mon Mar 4 Tottenham v Arsenal
2.45 am Fox 1
Tue Mar 5 Aston Villa v Manchester City
6.53 am Fox 3

Hyundai A-League
All games LIVE

Sat Mar 2 Adelaide Utd v Brisbane Roar
5.30 pm Fox 1
Sat Mar 2 Central Coast v Western Sydney
7.45 pm Fox 1
Sat Mar 2 Perth Glory v Sydney FC
9.45 pm Fox 1
Sun Mar 3 Wellington v Melbourne Heart
2.30 pm Fox 1
Sun Mar 3 Melb Victory v Newcastle
5.00 pm Fox 1

FOX SPORTS FC
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

Round 23: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT
Adelaide (7) Roar (0) Draw (1) - Mariners (6) Wanderers (1) Draw (1) - Glory (7) Sydney FC (1) Draw (0) - Phoenix (3) Heart (3) Draw (2) - Victory (8) Jets (0) Draw (0)

SANTO CILAURO 53
Adelaide
CCM
Perth
Phoenix
Victory
Last week: 3

CRAIG MACKENZIE 53
Adelaide
Mariners
Glory
Draw
Victory
Last week: 3

EDDIE KRNCEVIC 47
Adelaide
Wanderers
Glory
Draw
Victory
Last week: 1

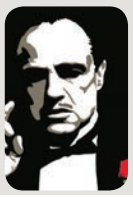
PETER KATHOLOS 49
Draw
Draw
Sydney
Heart
Victory
Last week: 3

ROGER SLEEMAN 59
Adelaide
Mariners
Glory
Heart
Victory
Last week: 4

ANDY HARPER 46
Adelaide
Mariners
Perth
Heart
Victory
Last week: 1

JOHN DOYLE 48
Adelaide
Mariners
Glory
Phoenix
Victory
Last week: 2

KISS OF DEATH 52
Adelaide
Mariners
Glory
Phoenix
Victory
Last week: 0



New Look Greens Eye Top Two Finish

NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUES

VPL COUNTDOWN

BRANDON GALGANO takes an insider's view into the lives of the Victorian Premier League clubs as they prepare for the upcoming 2013 season.

Club: Bentleigh Greens SC
Final Position Last Season: 4TH (Lost Preliminary final)
VPL Titles: Nil
Last Title: Vic State League Div 1 (1995)
Coach: John Anastasiadis

2012 was a season of great success for Victorian Premier League side Bentleigh Greens where the club only narrowly missed out on their first VPL Grand Final appearance in ten years following their loss to eventual champions Dandenong Thunder in last season's preliminary final.

This was a great achievement for a club who, after a five year absence from the premier league, was only promoted back into the 'big time' in 2010 following a period of instability in the lower leagues of Victorian football. Despite the clubs best finish in the VPL since their last Grand Final appearance back in 2002 though, the Bentleigh Management team of Coach John Anastasiadis and Football Operations Manager John Ioannou, have set out on claiming the clubs first piece of silverware since 1995 with their appetite for success having only increased following a year of near misses in 2012.

Pre Season Update:
With only just over a month to go before the beginning of the new season, a new look Bentleigh Greens side have worked tirelessly over the break with Football Operations manager John Ioannou claiming that the side is "looking very strong" and is "more than ready" to take on Victoria's best in 2013. Bentleigh have recently taken part in the Banyule Cup where the side recorded a 3-1 Victory over Clifton Hill on Monday night.

Ross Thompson swaps his Dandenong Thunder colours for those of Bentleigh Greens. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Transfer Update: Who's gone?
Despite a successful Campaign there has been a major change in the first team squad at Bentleigh. Influential midfielder Scott Bullock has returned to Western Australia due to work commitments whilst winger Nick Curtis has moved to NSW also due to work commitments. Paulo Retre has signed a deal with Melbourne Heart as well as young forward Connor Pain also signing a deal with Melbourne Victory. 2012 Loan signings Nick Ansell, Luke O'Dea and Lawrence Thomas are also unlikely to return to the club for the 2013 season due to commitments with Melbourne Victory.

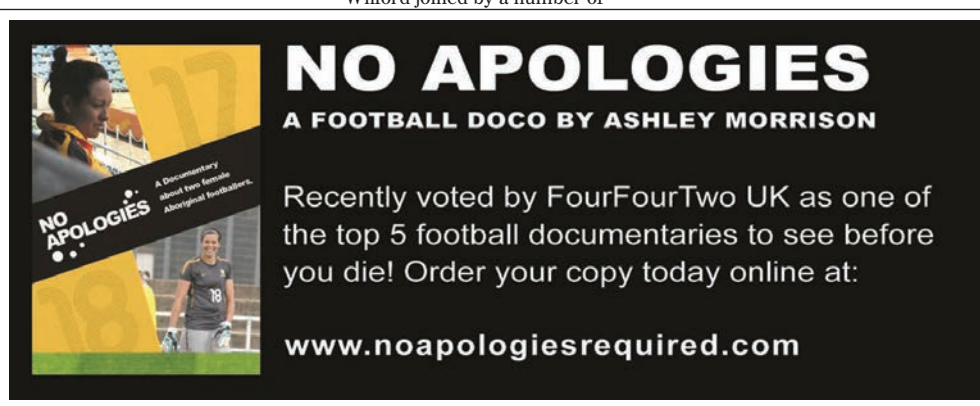
Who's in?
Following these significant losses to the first team, John Anastasiadis has made a number of astute signings with the signing of 2012 championship winning Goal Keeper Stuart Webster from Dandenong Thunder as well as fellow ex Thunder players in Luke Sherbon and Ross Thompson. Bentleigh have also signed former Southern Stars trio David Stirton, Liam McCormick and Luke Fitzpatrick to add some much needed depth to the Bentleigh senior roster. Young goal keeper Alistair Bray has been snapped up from Melbourne Heart following a solid campaign for Bulleen in State League One last season as well as former South Hobart forward Andy Brennan.

Summary:
With a number of new faces in and around the club as well as some added experience and stability Bentleigh Greens will for sure be a force to be reckoned with in 2013. The squad itself has a fine balance of youth and experience with the likes of Luke Pilkington and Aron Wilford joined by a number of championship winning players such as Stuart Webster and Luke Sherbon. This experience is complemented with an array of up and coming young talent with youngsters Jonathan Debiase and Chris Irwin heading that list and will both be looking to establish themselves in the senior squad this season.

It certainly will be a season of great expectations from the clubs fans with the pressure of backing up from a solid 2012 mounting on manager John Anastasiadis but Football Operations manager John Ioannou clearly believes that the squad that has been assembled will certainly be up to the task, even further claiming that Bentleigh Greens will be "aiming for a top two finish" with the view of "Pushing for a spot in the grand final" come the business end of the season. One way or another it is sure to be an eventful season down at Kingston Heath Soccer complex and one worth following come Season kickoff on the first weekend of April.

In other news around the VPL:
- South Melbourne Captain Steven O'dor has announced his shock retirement from football due to added work commitments.
- SMFC have also signed Dutch striker Renco Van Eeken, the former Hardenberg striker has joined the club following a successful two week trial.
- Richmond SC have signed former Melbourne Victory defender Peter Franjic. The promising centre back signed following being released by Melbourne Victory and is looking to restart his football career at his new club.
- Former Heart midfielder Matthew Park has signed a deal with Dandenong Thunder. The ex Frankston Pines man has joined the club in an effort to push for a chance with an A-League side in the near future.

The first round of the Victorian Premier League kicks off on Friday 5th April 2013.



Edwards leads Glory's quiet revolution

Perth Glory and Joeys star Daniel De Silva (left) with interim Glory head coach Alistair Edwards.Photo: Courtesy Perth Glory

IF YOU need any clues as to the future direction of Perth Glory then look no further than the first player signing of the Alistair Edwards regime.

Joeys attacking midfielder Daniel De Silva is 15 years old. He was born in Perth and played junior football with Kingsway Olympic and Stirling Lions.

Edwards, of course, is FFA's assistant national technical director and Joeys head coach and could not have made a clearer and more unambiguous statement of intent a few days after accepting an interim two-month appointment as Glory head coach.

"While I'm happy with the squad we've got, Daniel is now part of that squad and he's up for selection as much as anyone else irrespective of his age," said Edwards.

"It all comes down to if you're good enough then you're old enough and while we say we're signing guys for the future there's a good chance of them being selected before the end of the season."

Edwards and Glory owner Tony Sage are on the same page in fact their shared vision was key to Edwards agreeing to take over after the club parted ways with Ian Ferguson and assistant Stuart Munro last month.

"My dealings with Tony have always been good. He's got a good vision for the club and he's very passionate about the club," said Edwards.

"I'm enthused by his direction which fits perfectly with what I've been brought in to do. I'm very impressed by him to be honest."

Edwards wasted little time in signing former Glory teammate Gareth Naven as assistant coach and the reception they have received has been excellent.

"I'm humbled really. The response has been really positive, especially with Gareth coming on board.

"Everyone knows I grew up in Perth, went through development pathways and played for the club before. It's a special club for Gareth and I."

It's that bond with Glory that made watching from a distance a more painful ordeal in recent years as talented local youngsters sought opportunities interstate rather than through what should have been a well-developed pathway to becoming an established senior player with WA's sole A-League franchise.

"If you speak to anyone in Western Australia they'll tell you that there were too many players brought through the WA development system that are no longer at Perth Glory.

"We've got very good players in Western Australia and we've got very good coaches in Western Australia and we need to fully embrace that so that there's a clearly defined pathway for players to aspire to play for Perth Glory.

"Eli Babalj, for example, is playing with another A-League club, Trent Sainsbury is playing with another A-League club, Scott Galloway is playing with another A-League club, Mark Birighitti is playing with another A-League club … the list goes on and on.

"There needs to be a situation where not only in a results-based industry that we get results but also put in place a long-term plan. That was one of the reasons why, immediately, we got Gareth involved.

"It's not just because he's a past player but if you do a bit of research and see what Gareth has been doing for the past 10 years – and there are others in a similar situation who will come into the club – you'll see why they are the right people to drive the new direction of Perth Glory.

"There are now a number of people who have been involved with grassroots football and even with national teams over the years and their skill set is now at a level where they can help the club grow.

"Not only that but there are a number of players who have been involved with Kenny Lowe and the National Training Centre scheme (in WA) and gone on to the AIS who we are looking to secure because they are the future of the club."

But it's not just promising teenagers that Edwards is looking to sign. His phone has run hot over the past fortnight with calls from established players keen to come back home.

"We'll look to not just sign local developmental players but we'll bring back experienced Western Australian players.

"I think anyone would love to play in front of their home town and in their home environment."

Edwards is a former professional player with Scottish giant Rangers as are Glory coaching predecessors David Mitchell, Ferguson and Munro but there is a marked point of difference between Edwards and the others in this group.

"I'm the first locally based Perth Glory A-League coach," he says proudly.

"My focus is on this two-month period and putting into place a three- to five-year plan and I have to say I'm thoroughly enjoying it because it's such an exciting place to be.

"This is the best the A-League's ever been and there's a real buzz about the league."

His first game in charge saw Glory record a surprise 2-1 home win against league leader Central Coast Mariners and last weekend he took his men to Parramatta Stadium where they went down 1-0 to second-placed Western Sydney Wanderers.

"I've been in a privileged position since I was 16, 17 to be honest. I've been a professional footballer, I've spent a decade with the FFA and now I've been given an opportunity to be involved with my home state's A-League franchise"

On Sunday at home Glory faces Sydney FC in a crucial battle for a finals berth. Its chances may well come down to how effectively it deals with Alessandro Del Pierro, Lucas Neill and Brett Emerton.

"They're world class players. Much better coaches than myself have got players to try and stop Del Pierro but as we all know he's a special talent.

"We're very wary of his influence on games and we respect him but we're going out to try and impose our style on the game and try and reduce his impact."

Edwards is echoing the words of Melbourne Heart head coach John Aloisi prior to Heart's impressive 3-1 win over Sydney last weekend, a game which the Glory gaffer watched intently.

"Melbourne Heart played very well in fact it's probably the most complete performance I've seen from them this season and it was fantastic to see in front of such a large and boisterous crowd.

"I think Melbourne Heart played a very well structured, well disciplined game and they shut down Sydney probably better than a lot of their (Heart's) other opponents this season.

"They minimised the impact of some of the great players of Sydney. It was actually a great game to watch and all credit to Melbourne Heart.

"In saying that, Sydney FC are a very strong and experienced team and they won't be happy with losing that game so they'll be out to make amends against us.

"Every team we play is going to cause us football problems so we need to home in on the type of football we want to play.

"After every game we review the game in the first training session and we enhance what we've done so far but also prepare for the next game which for us is the Sydney challenge. We're looking forward to it."

He's also looking forward to catching up with Sydney counterpart Frank Farina and renewing an acquaintance that goes back a few decades.

"When I was a teenager the late Eddie Thomson took me over from Perth to train with Sydney City and Frank Farina was the star striker in those days.

"I always looked up to him as a striker and followed his career closely. He is literally a legend of the game and someone whom I have the utmost respect for."

Despite being entrusted with implementing a long-term plan for Glory, Edwards is keen to try and salvage something from this season. After the Sydney challenge his side squares up to Newcastle Jets, Wellington Phoenix, Melbourne Victory and Adelaide.

"Our focus is on the process to enable us to play the brand of football that will set up Perth Glory for sustainable success.

"We're looking to win games but to do so with a style that we want to implement on a long-term basis. You'll see that with a few of the signings we'll be making as we move forward and those signings will be in keeping with our playing philosophy.

"In terms of this season, yes, 100 per cent we want to try and make the top six and I think we'll get better and better as the games progress.

"We've had a tough run and it doesn't get any easier this weekend but I think that's one of the best things about the A-League.

"As exciting as it is right now it's even more exciting to play in the finals because that's the pinnacle of the season and we're going to be trying our very, very best to be part of that."

When Edwards took on the Glory job he wasted no time in making changes to the training regime. His first major change was to bring the youth squad and senior squad closer together in a series of joint training sessions. He also promoted some youth players to train with the seniors on a regular basis.

"I changed that straight away so that both squads do a lot of sessions together and I promoted five youth players to train with us fully. "It makes sense because the youth team plays the same way we play.

"Look I can see the type of things that need to happen to move forward. One of the things the club wanted me to come in for was to do with the future direction and if that wasn't the case I wouldn't have come in.

"I've actually been discussing this kind of thing among colleagues for years to be honest so basically when I was asked to become involved it was on the basis that I could put a vision and philosophy in place not just for the short term but for the long term.

"What I mean by that is whoever is the coach moving forward then this is the way the club is, this is the way the club's playing philosophy is, and we need the coach to fit into that and we need the coach to embrace that vision and philosophy as opposed to someone else coming in and changing the whole structure of the club."

While Edwards won't be drawn on the question of whether or not he'll leave the relative safety of the FFA at season's end it would come as a major surprise if he didn't join his old club on a full-time basis.

"I've been in a privileged position since I was 16, 17 to be honest. I've been a professional footballer, I've spent a decade with the FFA and now I've been given an opportunity to be involved with my home state's A-League franchise.

"In terms of what I'm doing moving forward I'm in a pretty good space at the moment."

It's clear that the days of outsiders at the coaching helm of the WA giant have passed, for the time being at least.

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VICTORIA'S LEADER IN TEAM WEAR

Preston wins State league en route to NSL

Blast From The Past

By Roy Hay

Preston Makedonia, Victorian State League champions 1980.
Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

Preston Lions will be holding a reunion later this month and the focus will be on the 1980 team which won the Victorian State League and the Victoria Cup that year. The following season Preston Makedonia joined the National Soccer League and finished 3rd in the single division in 1983, when there was no finals series played. In 1985 in the two-conference system, Preston reached the Southern Division final losing to the eventual champion Brunswick Juventus. Two years later Preston came second behind APIA Leichardt, who then beat Preston on penalties in the Preliminary Final.

In 1980 Brian Edgely coached the Victorian State League club to its first championship. He had put together a strong and experienced side which had few changes of personnel through that stellar season. Ljube Petrovski who came from Yugal Prague in Sydney in 1976 was a favourite with the fans, but he found himself playing with a mixed group of Scots, English and Australians.

The only loss in the State League was to Juventus by two goals to one at Connor Reserve in Round 5. Bobby McGuiness and Fabio Incantalupo scored for the Italians and George McMillan for Preston. Preston won 15 games, drew 6 and scored 55 goals and only conceded 18 in a remarkable run of form. Gary Ward was top scorer with 15 goals, one more than George McMillan. Peter Ollerton weighed in with nine. Ollerton's contribution was all the more remarkable for he had his jaw broken in a fiery league clash with Croatia in July, but played out the game. He returned as substitute the following week. No wonder they thought the big man was tough.

Highlights of the league campaign included a seven-one thrashing of Sunshine City in Round 18, with Gary Ward scoring 4. Socceroo Peter Ollerton scored a hat-trick including a penalty against St Kilda Hakoah.

The team which finished the league season with a three-all draw with Frankston City was: Lou Kastner, Mike Rainey, Gordon Flavell, John Higham, Ljube Petrovski, Jeff Faulkner, George McMillan, Claude Lucchesi, Robbie Cullen, Peter Ollerton and Gary Ward.

The State League Cup final against Essendon Croatia was a teethy affair, with three players sent off by referee Joe Slaats. Croatia got up by a single goal scored in the 82nd minute by Kenny Murphy. In the Dockerty Cup, Makedonia went out in the first main round by a goal to nil also, this time to the Hungarians from Melbourne.

These were rare blemishes in an excellent season in which only one league match was lost and Makedonia also won the Victoria Cup which involved both National Soccer League and State League clubs. In the final Preston beat JUST also by a goal to nil. George McMillan got the vital strike in the 70th minute.

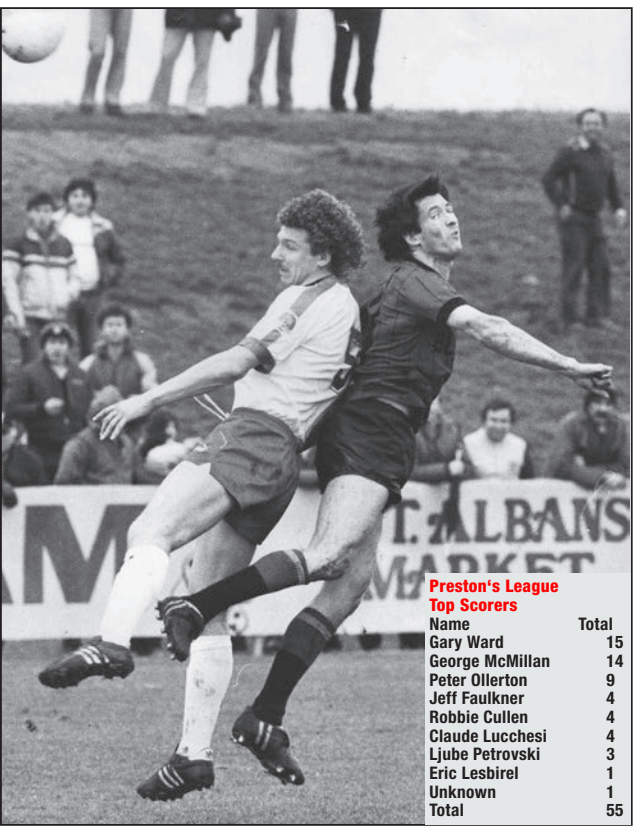
At the end of the season Makedonia was rewarded with a place in the National Soccer League where the club was determined to make an impact. Their huge and vociferous support was seen as key boost to the NSL, but the NSL's problems continued despite several attempts at reorganisation.

My thanks to Chris Demiris for provoking this Blast.

1980 Victorian State League Final Table

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Preston Makedonia	22	15	6	1	55	18	36
Essendon Croatia	22	12	8	2	37	16	32
Green Gully	22	11	6	5	29	21	28
St Kilda Hakoah	22	10	6	6	29	24	26
Juventus	22	10	5	7	34	27	25
Frankston City	22	8	7	7	36	30	23
Croydon City	22	7	6	9	20	25	20
George Cross	22	7	4	11	22	33	18
Sunshine City	22	6	5	11	21	33	17
Altona City	22	4	8	10	18	28	16
Western Suburbs	22	5	6	11	19	37	16
Prahran Slavia	22	2	3	17	15	43	7

Gary Ward of Makedonia takes on Croatia's Steve Short and Steve Kokoska. Photo: Les Shorrock. Soccer Action, 2 April 1980, p. 9.

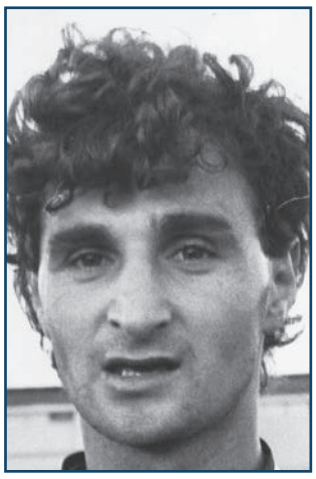


Preston's League Top Scorers

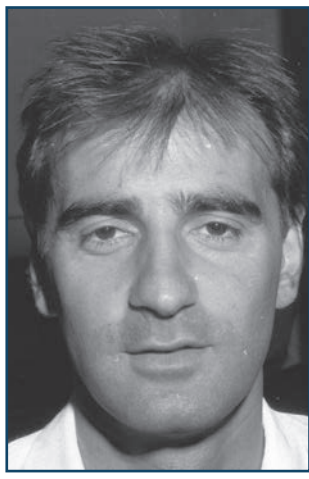
Name	Total
Gary Ward	15
George McMillan	14
Peter Ollerton	9
Jeff Faulkner	4
Robbie Cullen	4
Claude Lucchesi	4
Ljube Petrovski	3
Eric Lesbirel	1
Unknown	1
Total	55

Preston striker George McMillan (right) wins a header against Stuart Cannell. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection.

Peter Ollerton for Preston against his former team JUST and Jim Milne. Photo: Les Shorrock. Soccer Action, 12 November 1980, p. 4.



Ljube Petrovski
Photo: Les Shorrock collection



Claude Lucchesi
Photo: Les Shorrock collection

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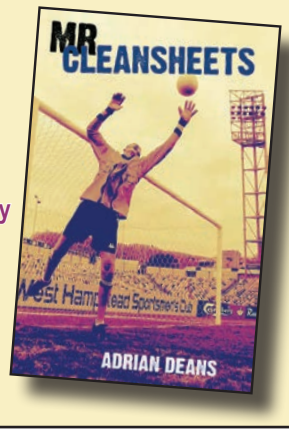

Report By Damian Briggs

V-League Title Race Still Wide Open

Round 19 of the Futsal Oz V-League

Sunday's round 19 action of the Nike V-League saw leaders Pascoe Vale FC draw with Essendon, while second placed Hume FC dropped points to Ashburton FC. Vic Vipers have now jumped into second spot with victory over FC Balwyn as the title race is wide open with three rounds to play.

Kruel blow for Hume's title shot

Ashburton FC have had a say in the 2012/13 title race with a massive 6-2 victory over second place Hume FC. The Brazilian Lucas Kruel's rich vain of form continued with four goals against a spirited Hume side desperate to win their first title. The encounter was heated at times with both clubs not giving a inch, Ashburton were too good in the end as they took the points and the result has now relegated Hume to third in the ladder.

Ashburton FC 6 *(L. Kruel 4, L. De Paris, A. Farina) def.* **Hume FC 2** *(V. Mazurskiy, G. Harrison)*

Brunswick takes the points over Brighton

CF Brunswick proved too hot for Brighton in a match Brunswick dominated from the opening whistle. Miguel Barrigos and Duke Duva both got doubles for Brunswick as their slick passing was too much for Brighton to handle. Brighton will need to pick up two wins to ensure they avoid the automatic relegation position.

CF Brunswick 8 *(M. Barrigos 2, D. Duva 2, D. Van Reyk, H. Avdic, D. Slovacek, N. Yao) def.* **Brighton FC 2** *(N. Khoshaba, H. Shamon)*

Goals galore as Moreland win

Moreland FC wins a high scoring affair over FC Prahran 14-9. In this free flowing match defence was not high on either teams priorities as both teams created a large amount of chances. Morland's Burukhan Koca scored six and teammate Seb Ingrosso scored four and it was always going to be tough for Prahran to pull back 10 goals. There were some positives for Prahran with Kiwi international Kareem Osman scoring 5 on debut.

Moreland FC 14 *(B. Koca 6, S. Ingrosso 4, B. Sahin 2, S. La Manda, T. Korkmaz) def.* **FC Prahran 9** *(K. Osman 5, A. Muktar 2, M. Krapivsky, T. Korkmaz (OG))*

Lucas Kruel of Ashburton FC celebrates his second goal against Hume FC. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

Brighton FC's Noor Khoshaba (No.17) watches his effort hit the post against CF Brunswick Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

Vipers Maxi Avram (L) and Adam Cooper celebrate during the Vipers win. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

FC Prahran's Kiwi international Kareem Osman completes his hat-trick against Moreland FC. Photo: DAMIAN BRIGGS

Metro take spoils from Fitzroy

Six goals from Dino Redzepovic has help guide Metropolitan to victory over Fitzroy. Metropolitan started the match strongly and their quick counter attacks were to good for Fitzroy. Fitzroy tried to get back into the contest however they left themselves open in defence for Metropolitan to capitalize and take the 3 points.

Metropolitan FC 12 *(D. Redzepovic 6, T. Grgic 3, J. Avdic, A. Redzepovic, A. Husseini) def.* **Fitzroy FC 6** *(C. Mullen 2, P. Robotis, V. Zoric, I. Filipovic, A. Alicevic)*

Essendon come from behind to share the points

With Hume FC dropping points earlier in the day it was set for Pascoe Vale to move 6 points clear in the title race. Pascoe Vale was in control of the match, but midway through the second Essendon rallied and forced Pascoe Vale into uncharastic mistakes. With 5mins left it was 5-3 Pascoe Vale and the writing was on the wall as Essendon snatched 2 late goals to finish 5-5.

Pascoe Vale FC 5 *(J. Da Silva 2, T. Umeda, J. Portillo, S. Soufi) drew with.* **Essendon FC 5** *(A. Cobo, A. Osorio, G. Candelo, B. Vanega, J. Jiminez)*

Vipers to hot for Balwyn

Vic Vipers season has been coming along nicely and the win over FC Balwyn has moved them to 2nd place on the ladder. With hat-tricks to Maxi Avram, Jason Barrientos and Adam Cooper it was a real team effort for the Vipers as they scored 13. FC Balwyn will need to find a win in its last 3 matches to avoid the automatic relegation position.

Vic Vipers FC 13 *(M. Avram 3, Jas. Barrientos 3, A. Cooper 3, L. Stringer 2, H. Tran, R. Rashiti (OG)) def.* **FC Balwyn 2** *(C. Davies 2)*

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1 Pascoe Vale FC	19	15	3	1	132	68	+64	48
2 Vic Vipers FC	19	14	3	2	99	59	+40	45
3 Hume FC	19	14	2	3	170	57	+113	44
4 Metropolitan FC	19	13	0	6	143	93	+50	39
5 Ashburton FC	19	12	2	5	94	54	+40	38
6 Moreland FC	19	11	0	8	111	130	-19	33
7 Fitzroy FC	19	8	1	10	80	89	-9	25
8 CF Brunswick	19	7	0	12	80	93	-13	21
9 FC Prahran	19	4	1	14	90	141	-51	13
10 FC Essendon	19	4	1	14	64	132	-68	13
11 FC Balwyn	19	3	1	15	79	170	-91	10
12 Brighton FC	19	2	0	17	50	105	-55	6

Round 19 Clashes Friday February 17

- Vic Vipers FC 13-2 FC Balwyn
- Ashburton FC 6-2 Hume FC
- Fitzroy FC 6-12 Metropolitan FC
- FC Prahran 9-14 Moreland FC
- Brighton FC 2-8 CF Brunswick
- Pascoe Vale FC 5-5 FC Essendon

Round 20 Clashes Sunday March 3

3:00pm – FC Balwyn vs. CF Brunswick
4:00pm – Fitzroy FC vs. Pascoe Vale FC
5:00pm – Metropolitan FC vs. Ashburton FC
6:00pm – FC Prahran vs. Vic Vipers FC
7:00pm – Hume FC vs. Moreland FC
8:00pm – FC Essendon vs. Brighton FC

Top Goal Scorers

1 Vadim Mazurskiy - Hume FC	48
2 Alija Redzepovic - Metropolitan FC	39
3 Juso Julardzija - Metropolitan FC	35
4 Burukhan Koca - Moreland FC	33
5 Sofiane Soufi - Pascoe Vale FC	29

The Futbol Town Show every Tuesday 6.30pm on C31 and C44Digital

FUTSAL OZ

NYL decider postponed due to rain-soaked weather

By Daniel Quinn

In a rain-soaked final round of the National Youth League (NYL) all but first and second spots were determined as Central Coast's clash with Melbourne Victory was postponed.

Meanwhile Western Sydney, the AIS, Brisbane and Sydney FC all finished off the season with victories.

The 2012/13 NYL decider between the Central Coast Mariners and the Melbourne Victory was postponed due to torrential rain in New South Wales over the weekend. The fixture will be rescheduled and played this Sunday at 3pm at the Centre of Excellence in Tuggerah.

The Victory just need a draw, whilst the Mariners must win to retain the NYL championship.

In Canberra on Saturday, the AIS beat Adelaide United 3-1 to record just their second win of the season.

After both sides had plenty of attempts kept out, the AIS finally opened the scoring on 56 minutes as Marc Marino wonderfully finished Steve Kuzmanovski's nice ball.

On 75 minutes the Institute doubled their lead as Jordan Pudler belted his first-time effort past Reds' 'keeper John Hall.

Adelaide's Jordan Elsey then ensured that the Reds weren't going to make their way back into the game as the defender was given his marching orders for a nasty two-footed challenge.

But substitute Nathan Konstandopoulos poked home to give the Reds some hope, but their hopes were ended when Bai Antoniou coolly finished AIS' third with three minutes left.

It's 3-0 to Sydney FC as Jordan Figon watches his goal cross the line, beating Marko Stevanja's despairing dive.
Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Sydney FC ended their season with a 3-0 win against the Melbourne Heart at Epping Stadium, but the win doesn't lift the Sky Blues out of the bottom two.

Theo Kofinas opened the scoring for the visitors on 15 minutes as his deflected free kick found the bottom corner.

Mitch Mallia then extended Sydney's lead to two on the second attempt after Heart 'keeper Chris Maynard saved the initial effort.

Sydney then sealed the win with a third, with the aid of some luck, as substitute Heart 'keeper Marko Stevanja deflected Jordan Figon's cross into the back of the net for an own-goal.

James Meyer's hat-trick helped the Brisbane Roar beat the Newcastle Jets 3-1 at Wanderers Oval, but the win doesn't leapfrog the Roar over the Jets as the Roar finished the season in fourth behind Newcastle in third.

Meyer didn't take long to kick-start the scoring as in the first minute the versatile attacker slotted past Newcastle 'keeper Ben Kennedy.

But the Jets leveled on 23 minutes as James Brown and Kale Bradbery combined superbly before the latter fired into the far corner.

Soon afterwards, Meyer scored his second with a stunning long-range effort that dipped into the top corner.

On 67 minutes Meyer completed his hat-trick, and in style, as the 26-year-old received the ball down the right, cut inside and stroked his shot inside the far post.

A very late Jake McGing strike ensured the Western Sydney Wanderers took advantage of Adelaide's loss to finish in seventh after the 2-1 victory over the Perth Glory on Sunday. Just before the half-time interval Labinot Haliti broke the deadlock with a great finish after combining well with Rocky Visconte.

But with nine minutes left the Glory equalized through Slobodan Vulin who finished terrifically into the top corner.

The Western Australians thought they had grabbed a point, however McGing finished from close-range in stoppage-time to secure seventh spot for the Wanderers in their debut season.

Round 17 Results

Western Sydney Wanderers 2 *(Labinot Haliti 41', Jake McGing 92')*
Perth Glory 1 *(Slobodan Vulin 81')*

Newcastle Jets 1 *(Bradbery 23)*
Brisbane Roar 3 *(Meyer 1, 32, 67)*

Melbourne Heart 0
Sydney FC 3 *(Kofinas 15, Mallia 33, Stevanja OG 92)*

Central Coast Mariners P
Melbourne Victory P

AIS 3 *(Marino 56, Pudler 75, Antoniou 87)*
Adelaide United 1 *(Konstandopoulos 81)*

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Melbourne Victory	17	12	0	5	57	20	37	36
2 CC Mariners	17	12	0	5	38	27	11	36
3 Newcastle Jets	17	10	1	6	53	33	20	31
4 Brisbane Roar	17	8	3	6	36	33	3	27
5 Perth Glory	17	8	1	8	44	43	1	25
6 Melbourne Heart	17	8	1	8	31	31	0	25
7 Adelaide United	17	6	4	7	34	39	-5	22
8 WS Wanderers	17	6	4	7	27	40	-13	22
9 Sydney FC	17	5	3	9	38	46	-8	18
10 AIS	17	1	1	15	21	67	-46	4

NYL Decider

Sunday 3rd March
CC Mariners
v
Melbourne Victory
Centre of Excellence
Tuggerah
KO 3PM

All KO times ae AEDT

Sydney's Jarrad Kyle and Will Abbott (Heart) throw caution to the wind.
Photos: JOHN PUNSHON

Andrew Cartanos (Heart) is foiled by Sydney FC keeper Anthony Bouzanis.
Photo: JOHN POUNSHON

Santo, Sam & Ed Podcast

Santo Cilauro, Sam Pang and Ed Kavalee are back in town with their own unique take on events of the week.

Their brief is simple - 7 days, 3 guys, no agenda.

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THROWING ANOTHER PROJECTILE

By Francis Fields

The Copa Libertadores in mid-week grabbed the headlines yet again for all the wrong reasons. For as much good play and attractive football on the pitch unfortunately came with destruction and violence in the stands of the Centenario stadium. Vélez Sarsfield won 1-0 with a late Lucas Pratto winner only three minutes to full-time.

The historical ground located in Montevideo's Parque Batlle is administered and owned by the Intendencia or better put, the municipality of the city centre. Perhaps this is the nucleus of the faltering cultural problem that carries an epidemic for over three decades.

Rest assure, next year's FIFA World Cup to be staged in neighbouring Brazil will be far from a battle in the stands. Of course it will a month-long carnival of football and partying during matches both on and off the field. The game that Charles Miller brought to the Atlantic Portuguese-speaking nation is customary and synonymous to its mainstream culture of the masses and of identity.

The national Brasileirão and the respective state championships played in the first half of the year also have its own issues with football violence. This is in reference to a country with four different police departments with an internal police to police institutional corruption. If only the CBF, (the Brazilian Football Confederation) which governs all the state football federations had an anti-corruption body as well, the heights of the game given its century-long prowess could probably be even stronger.

There are however notable differences when it comes to Latin America's top-level club football competition in the limelight and alongside the domestic leagues with for instance, with other leagues around the world. With media coverage and perceptions further enhanced by a greater understanding and social acceptance of such depreciated acts from so-called fans along with the misuse of the word passion to associate the strong affection with the game, what can authorities do more of to put an end to it.

Rather the question should be raised not just time and time again to authorities and examine what have they done but at what fault do the players themselves play, coaches, the media itself, fans alike and the inevitable social spectrum.

Ovación newspaper lamenting the troublemakers between visiting Vélez fans on Peñarol's home stands.

Arsenal de Sarandí defender Diego Braghieri lunging on a vicious, criminal two-footed tackle on Ronaldinho.

Colours of Condemnation

Newspaper El Gráfico - one of the continent's heavyweight publications had an article written in its Chilean edition last week detailing that the largest group of football fans are actually more spectators. They are the ever-growing middle class of football lovers who indulge in the passive lifestyle of watching from the armchair.

Much of this behaviour has to do from the CIA-backed list of military repression with curfews in the streets where the steam and angst needed to be vented in the stadium. Spanning from across the 1960's, into the '70's and onto university students and working class youths of the 1980's it spread onto not only popular culture but replicated onto similar attitudes and tendencies in Europe - especially in this case from Spain and Italy but also the replica onto Japan for instance.

But football was strong and the colours of a team were still expressed with fashion by peacefully waving flags, jumping and singing, shouting in unison and the choreography was just as composed and synchronised without of course, the media explosion of technology and social media.

So authorities and the media are currently winning this fierce and eternal regulatory battle against fans by hiking up ticket prices whilst controlling them on the stands. In this, the stripping of balloons, drums, flags, banners, umbrellas, confetti and costumes is the way to go. The compulsory scanning of identification cards and full body searches are unwarranted but will always provide a guarantee for everybody present. With the slogan objective of bringing the family back to the stands always a welcomed initiative, police whether from Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia or from Peru to Uruguay will not cease to discriminate the social classes attached to both sympathetic, ticket-paying and law-abiding fans and the hardcore, hooligan-like "barras bravas" who wave their hands in their air to the rhythm and beat of loud-banging percussion drums.

And the view of the federations and CONMEBOL, the continent's governing body? They nod in a cynical and disguised smile to insinuate the approval of control in this post-modern authoritarian rule of the masses via the media. The sponsorships that control the Brazilian domestic league can easily compete with many European counterparts but the decline in economic stature of Argentina and Uruguay oblige an economic exodus of players which are not surprising - including coaches, assistants, fitness trainers and journalists. It is however the tender age, the legality of the contracts in question and the agents, especially Paco Casal in Uruguay and Gustavo Mascardi and Fernando Felicevich in Argentina - with strong ties back in the Old Continent, again with La Liga and the Serie A.

Beating to a different drum

Thankfully former players especially like Uruguay legend Enzo Francescoli who runs GolTV in the lucrative Spanish-speaking television market from Miami in the United States and current coaches who have just earned their badges have done very well in establishing financial stability but a football pathway for journalism students, reporters alike and more nourishing of football culture. Another journalist in Víctor Hugo Morales in Argentine football is also prestigiously renown for transparency by ruthlessly claiming the facts and naming the names, at the cost of passing on knowledge and teaching future media professionals in the game. His latest cries on River Plate these past two years have catapulted him beyond the stature of colleague Fernando Niembro and company in the TyC and Fox Sports empire.

Names like Juan Ramón Carrasco, Jorge Fossati, Héctor Cuper, Darío Franco, Julio Cesar Carpeggiani or Gerardo Pelusso are coaches who not only gain results but inconsistently under-perform and ultimately get the sack or resign but await huge pay sums afterwards. It is the competition from a large pool of players and qualified coaches who are awaiting for an opportunity knocking that makes the Latin American football circle a very fast-paced environment. Working alongside the opportunistic agents who are today changing their practices with the burgeoning eyes of club board room directors, the poor distribution of capital makes the hunger for good football all the more important.

From the experiences of having previously played professionally, all but briefly it pays a lot of advantage to carry a second passport and an ethnic descendent background to understand, learn and continue to love and broaden the love for football. Not playing the game for years due to injury and lack of opportunity equals to playing the game at social level but the academic and journalistic endeavour to the game can be far more risky but worthwhile to keep feeding the injections of blood onto the veins that are inherited down the family tree.

My former colleagues are players who today are getting rewarded be it financially or with fame and recognition but most importantly, the quality of play is constantly improving and very competitive. The salaries and hence their quality of living and the players' rights with the backing of the respective FIFPro-backed player syndicates and associations are not only positive but strong, professional initiatives that have been paved from the continent itself and for the rest of the football world to follow. Football colleagues and its fellow professionals deserve like all work industries the same rights, documentation, benefits, insurances and pay. With little to no preoccupation and worrying of competing against other minor sporting codes for exposure and importance like in Australian or US society, the game will always be synonymous to the expression of both demographics, identity, culture, art and even science.

Derby Day Dramas

Independiente won 2-0 in its 181st edition of the district derby last weekend as Argentine top-flight football was again divided into cringing and delight with River Plate is not only topping the league ladder in equal first position. Frenchman David Trézeguet was on the scoresheet with a cracker for a 1-0 home win over Tigre. It was in the Buenos Aires district of Avellaneda where the eternal rivalry between troubled Independiente and Racing the stage of quintessentially football's most purest of passions. A term that is very loosely used in emerging-nations of the game and the pompous excuse for football vandals for their existence.

It is the word-of-mouth passed down from generation-to-generation that will always defeat the notion of marketing attained to the membership of a club. Pay-per-view television vary its contracted channels to their commercial convenience to broadcasting domestic matches with differing time schedules and packages for club cup competitions with rival competing cable networks. Following compatriots in the big-money leagues in Europe are also included in the viewing package. Imagine the prices in the pay television market and for those who cannot afford them, if all the violence was not just eradicated but at least controlled and brought to a minimum. Would the subscription fee drop? Would stadium prices now mostly regulated by the host club drop if there were attendances?

A halt of the profiteering much like the sports chain Torneos y Competencias in Argentina (known as TyC Sports) with its biased off-field activities linked with River Plate's Daniel Passarella, president of the giant club and a former World Cup winning captain when relegated to Argentina's second division. Not only is it another exercise to manipulate and control excessive amounts of pesos into dollars and thousands and thousands of people who are not just fans and pay-per-view subscribers but they are also registered club members.

Horrific Tackles

This week it was at Peñarol hosting Vélez Sarsfield in the Copa Libertadores, and next week it will be rivals Nacional hosting Boca Juniors (at the same venue). On the pitch this week, Arsenal de Sarandí players also displayed horrific anti-football tackling targetting Ronaldinho especially, nearly to injury.

The standard of refereeing has been inconsistent of late, with also Chilean whistle-blower Enrique Osses also being questioned for his performance and subsequently suspended by the CONMEBOL on appeal from Ecuador's Barcelona of Guayaquil. So the boxing ring in the stands with its hooligans showcasing their anti-social antics.

It would be very interesting to see the views and opinion from Argentina's most infamous man of right and wrong, who defied bribes and pressure from off-field interests for the greater good of the game, Javier Castrilli. He no longer officiates on the pitch but still finds himself employed, involved with the referees association and judging panel. For him doing a notable and commanding job in his presence goes without saying, after all he was influenced and appointed by a heavyweight in Buenos Aires politics, in former Boca Juniors president Mauricio Macri.

There is no place for violence, for corruption, doping or political manoeuvring but it is still present. Technology obviously has its place and a fault at the same time and gives more food for the authorities' thinking. Technology can put an end to throwing projectiles if it can be put to better use with a crack-down by reporting incidents and the use of better level-headed security systems like the ones implemented in Brazilian and Chilean football. It shall be a question of time and a need for addressing education and one that only begins from junior football coaches on dirt-covered cement and grass pitches and on the streets, where the most creative baby football steps are played.

Copa Libertadores Results

Peñarol 0 - 1 Vélez Sarsfield
Arsenal de Sarandí 2 - 5 Atlético Mineiro
Deportes Tolima 0 - 1 Real Garcilaso
Tijuana 4 - 0 San José

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London Calling

By Samuel Collins

Spurs climb above Chelsea

AVB seems to be getting it right at Spurs and gets one over his former club, Chelsea.

It was this weekend last year that André Villas-Boas was dismissed by Chelsea. Numerous bust-ups with key players, questionable tactical decisions, poor form both domestically and in Europe, it was little wonder Roman Abramovich axed the Portuguese last March.

The Blues had initially paid Porto, Villas-Boas' former club, £13.3m to release the coach from his contract at the Estádio do Dragão. But that sizable fee wasn't enough to halt Chelsea's eccentric Russian owner from sacking 'AVB' nine months later, a maneuver that would cost close to £12m. In total, £32m was spent on Villas-Boas; compensation fees and salaries taking their toll on the London club. And while Roberto Di Matteo proved to be an outstanding replacement, lifting both the Champions League and the FA Cup, it's only now we're seeing what might had been had Abramovich not been so rash.

For on Monday evening, Villas-Boas, now of Tottenham Hotspur, watched his talented team leapfrog above Chelsea in the Premier League table following a 3-2 victory at West Ham. Without a loss in the top-flight since early December, Spurs are on an 11-match unbeaten run. Five clean sheets and eighteen goals during that period - half of which have been netted by the excellent Gareth Bale - have made the north Londoners favourites in the race for a finish in the top four. Of course, the two Manchester clubs ought to take the top two positions, though, talk suggesting Spurs could overtake Manchester City is building. But third place is just as attractive as second in many ways; both guarantee football in Europe's elite competition next season. And it may take either to keep Bale at White Hart Lane.

"I think so," Villas-Boas replied when asked whether or not he thought Bale was the player of the year. "It would be truly deserved and he's having a tremendous season. He's a great, great talent." It's difficult to argue, even with Robin van Persie, Luis Suarez and Michu all enjoying fine seasons. The Welsh midfielder's first goal at Upton Park came from the edge of the box, a low shot which found the bottom corner. But it was Bale's second goal, the last-minute winner which got people talking. "You have to admire that," confessed West Ham's coach Sam Allardyce. Originally, Bale picked up the ball in the centre-circle, evading a few opposition players, before being clattered. Seconds later, Gylfi Sigurdsson, Bale's team-mate, returned the ball back to the 23-year old, who unleashed an incredible dipping drive past Jussi Jääskeläinen - the West Ham 'keeper had no chance. The irony was that he was man of the match, forced to make save after save, and yet, he still conceded three. But that's how good Spurs and Bale are right now.

Meanwhile in SW1, the problems at Chelsea continue to expand. Reports earlier this week claimed Rafael Benítez, the interim coach, had been at the centre of a training ground spat with various players. It's thought that captain John Terry, left out by Benítez for the weekend defeat at Manchester City, defended his team-mates when the Spaniard criticised their recent performances. "The players are fully behind our ideas," Benítez insisted on Tuesday, adding that his relationship with his squad was "fantastic". A smile followed, but it was a smile which hid the truth. Or so it seemed.

And while Chelsea are three points better off after 27 league games in this campaign (49pts) compared with the last (46pts), they still lag 19 points behind leaders Manchester United. This was supposed to be the year in which the European champions followed up their success in Munich last May by fighting on all fronts. At the beginning of August, Chelsea had the opportunity to win seven pieces of silverware. Losses against Man City, Atletico Madrid, Swansea and Corinthians ended their chances in four of those, and the aforementioned distance off the top of the Premier League table leaves Benítez with just two possibilities to lift a trophy; the Europa League and the FA cup. Ties against Steaua Bucuresti and Middlesbrough represent a reasonable chance to qualify for the latter stages of both competitions, but neither featured high on Abramovich's priority list last summer.

Spurs still reside in this season's Europa League too, and their next opponents in the often ridiculed tournament, Inter Milan, make up part of a tough-looking fixture list for Villas-Boas' side. This Sunday, neighbours Arsenal travel to the Lane, before Inter follow suit days later. Then come a trip to Liverpool and the return leg against Inter at the San Siro, while April sees games against Everton, Man City and Chelsea.

But with Bale in such phenomenal form, Spurs have the the ability to take on that schedule with confidence. And how Villas-Boas would just love to finish above his former employers come May.

SHORT PASSES

Maradona in Italy to fight tax case

Argentine great Diego Maradona has returned to Italy in a bid to clear his name i a tax evasion case.

The former Napoli star has allegedly racke up a debt of 40 million euros, after failing to pay taxes between 1984 and 1991.

During that period the World Cup winner helped Napoli win two Serie A titles - the only silverware they have ever won in the league.

Dozens of supporters sang songs to welcome Maradona back, nearly 20 years after he played for the club.

"I want to say they (the tax officials) are making a big mistake with me. I came here to say that I am innocent," Maradona said.

"If someone can think I can pay 40 million euro taxes, well I say no. I have just come here to prove my innocence."

Balotelli commissions statue

AC Milan striker Mario Balotelli has commis sioned a life-size statue of himself to stand in his Brescia home.

The Italy international hopes to see his goa celebration from the 2-1 win over Germany in the semi-finals of Euro 2012 immortalise in bronze.

The statue is, of course, the latest in a lon line of curious purchases by the maverick striker.

The 22-year-old is known to own a camouflaged Bentley and, upon his arrival England, famously returned from a shoppir trip with a giant trampoline and two Vespa scooters instead of the household items his mother requested he purchase.

Livio Scarpella, the artist who is set to wor on the piece, told Il Giornale di Brescia: "I received the commission, but have never actually met Balotelli, so I am working from photographs.

"I presented various sketches, but Mario wanted to be immortalised in the pose afte a goal: muscles in evidence and an expres sion to challenge the opponents.

"I imagined him as an athlete from ancient times. The statue will be between the classic and pop style, in platinum and coloured bronze with the eyes made of precious stones."

Balkan Wrap

By Alex Milic

Bosnia

With league action across South Eastern Europe back underway the Bosnian-Herzegovinian Premier League resumes this weekend after its winter break with champions FK Željeznicar and FK Sarajevo expected to battle it out alone for the title.

Željeznicar, who restart their campaign at home to third-bottom NK Travnik, are two points clear of their city rivals, despite losing 1-0 in the 100th edition of the eternal derby in November – one of two defeats they suffered in the first half of the season.

Indeed, the upper echelons of the table are dominated by capital clubs, with FK Olimpik Sarajevo and FK Slavija Sarajevo making up the top four, albeit seven points off second spot. They are among a clutch of teams, including 2011 title winners FK Borac Banja Luka, striving for a place in European competition next term.

Sarajevo lost ground when they were beaten 2-1 by FK Radnik Bijeljina in their last league outing, yet coach Dragan Jovic is of the opinion that all will not be settled until the final day, 1 June. "Željeznicar are the favourites but my ambition is still to win the championship," he said. "The title will be a dead heat until the final round of matches. We don't underestimate other teams but it will be difficult for them to join the fight."

Željeznicar coach Amar Osim, the most successful trainer in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is anticipating an "uncertain struggle" but made a fairly safe prediction when he said: "The title will remain in Sarajevo." Osim will have one eye on next week's draw for the Bosnian Cup semi-finals, where his holders will face NK Široki Brijeg, HŠK Zrinjski or second-tier FK Sloga Doboj on 13 March and 4 April.

At the other end of the standings, the game seems up for NK Gradina, even at the halfway stage, the stragglers having amassed just three points in the first 15 matches. NK GOŠK Gabela, Travnik, NK Zvijezda, FK Velež and Radnik Bijeljina are scrambling to avoid the second relegation berth.

Josip Simunic

Croatia

The new manager of fifth placed Rijeka is former Slovenia manager Matjaz Klek. Klek led the Slovenian National Team to the World Cup in South Africa where the Slovenes were unlucky to not have made the knockout stages.

He is expected to take Rijeka to Europe next season if the club can get as many points as possible in the second half of the season, so far the club is only three points behind second placed Hajduk and a spot in Europe is not far away.

Dinamo Zagreb is set to retain the Croatian League title following another win against rivals and closest followers Hajduk Split in the Croatian Derby. Krstanovic opened the scoring in the first half after only ten minutes of play but his goals was cancelled out in the 42n minute through Jozinovic and just as it looked like it was heading for a stalemate heading into the break, Ibanez put Dinamo back in front at the Poljud Stadium. The win now means Dinamo has a fourteen point lead over their arch rivals and the seventh consecutive league title is now a certainty for Krunislav Jurcic's men.

Meanwhile UEFA's innovative Certificate in Football Management (CFM) education programme has been launched within two national associations, with England and Croatia piloting what could be a successful new approach for the initiative.

The UEFA CGM programme is linked to UEFA's Knowledge and Information Sharing Scenario (KISS) and aims to help UEFA's member associations reinforce their knowledge and management of sports, particularly football. The national edition concept is a natural evolution from the current UEFA CFM format, and could allow more people from the national associations to enrol in the scheme.

The content of the six online modules is the same, but the associations organising a national edition of the programme would have opportunities to involve local experts in the face-to-face seminars staged during the course.

UEFA is also sending experts to assist, while the professors who devised the online modules continue to oversee the face-to-face seminars. The Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP) supervises the marking of the participants' reports at the end of their studies, and ultimately issues the Certificate in Football Management.

Twenty staff members at England's Football Association (FA) participated in the kick-off meeting of the UEFA CFM's English pilot-phase edition. UEFA had approached the FA in 2012 to see whether the body would pilot a bespoke national version of the course to meet the growing demand and interest in the UEFA initiative from other European associations.

The FA edition of the UEFA CFM will span six months, culminating with a graduation ceremony at St George's Park in September. It will comprise online learning modules, face-to-face seminars and networking opportunities. Topics to be covered include the organisation of football; strategic and performance management of a football association; operational management of a football association; football event management; football marketing and sponsorship; and internal and external communications in football associations.

Croatia held its kick off Event after the Croatian Football Federation (HNS) readily accepted UEFA's approach to take part in the pilot project. Twenty-four participants from the HNS, regional associations and Croatian clubs registered for the UEFA CFM's Croatian edition.

Representatives of IDHEAP and UEFA attended the kick-off seminar to provide participants with advice on how to arrange their study time, as well as to wish them every success in their studies.

If the pilot phase is successful, the project will be expanded to include further national associations. Other associations have already shown interest in implementing a national edition of the UEFA CFM, and further versions of the programme could get under way during the 2013/14 season.

Next week in the Balkan Wrap a full round of league action from Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia.

EPL Wrap

By Andrew Bishara

Credit to Laudrup's Swansea success

Through a career spanning more than 30 years, and playing for some of the biggest clubs in the world, including Italian giants Juventus, Lazio and both Real Madrid and Barcelona, Michael Laudrup's most crowning moment came last Sunday night.

He admitted it was "up there with the best things" he had experienced in football. What he was raving on about, was Swansea's 5-0 thrashing of Bradford City in the Capitol One Cup final at Wembley.

"I think to win a major trophy for a club must be one of the most important things," said the former Denmark international. "I don't say the most important thing because I know in this club there have been some very special moments."

In probably the most dominate performance of club in a final; the team from Wales, trounced the League Four side, with both Jonathan De Guzman and Nathan Dyer scoring two a piece, with Michu adding another.

What made it that more sweeter, was this was Swansea first ever major trophy in the big leagues. The route to the final, in which they beat both Liverpool and Chelsea, means they more than deserve their medals.

The transition that Laudrup has instilled in his team, since the departure of Brendan Rodgers has been seamless. While there is still that tiki-taka, possession game imbedded in the squad, Laudrup has instructed his boys to player quicker, and more lethal on the break, while staying true to their original methods.

This style of play has long been part of Swansea's structure, back since they were a League Two side. Roberto Martinez, now Wigan's manager, and Brendan Rodgers both followed the trend. It's the base for success, says Laudrup.

"I think it's been handled very well. There is a philosophy that has been there for the last six, seven years and that makes it easier because every time you get a manager with the same philosophy."

"It means you look for the same kind of player, which is very important so you don't have to change four or five in the starting XI, which is what you see happens in other clubs where you change completely from one type of manager to another one" continued Laudrup.

Swansea are now comfortably in the Premier League, closer to the European places than the relegation battle. And for the first time next season, they'll be in a European competition, contesting the Europa League.

The success of the club though will lead speculations regarding departures. Some players, such as the likes of Michu, Dyer and De Guzman might be chased during the transfer window. Managers too, have been snatched from Swansea before. Martinez left in 2009, as did Rodgers last year. Now there is talk of Laudrup leaving before his contract runs out.

The Dane will reach the midway point of his current two-year deal come the season's end. Minor rumours have begun circulating that he could make a return to Spain, where he spent the majority of his playing and managerial career. The rumoured destination: Real Madrid.

There has been no concrete offer though. And so far, it is merely paper talk. Swansea will apparently open talks with Laudrup soon on an extension. They'll do their best to keep him. He's the man that's made them reach and conquer the biggest stage.

Worth the wait: Laudrup delivers Swansea's first silverware in 100 years.

ENGLAND EPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Manchester United	27	22	2	3	64	31	+33	68	W W W W D
2 Manchester City	27	16	8	3	50	24	+26	56	W L D D W
3 Tottenham Hotspur	27	15	6	6	47	32	+15	51	W W W D D
4 Chelsea	27	14	7	6	55	30	+25	49	L W L D W
5 Arsenal	27	13	8	6	52	30	+22	47	W W W D W
6 Everton	27	10	12	5	41	34	+7	42	L L D W D
7 WBA	27	12	4	11	38	36	+2	40	W W L L D
8 Liverpool	27	10	9	8	49	34	+15	39	W L D D W
9 Swansea City	27	9	10	8	38	34	+4	37	L W L D W
10 Stoke City	27	7	12	8	26	32	-6	33	L W L D L
11 Fulham	27	8	8	11	37	42	-5	32	W D L W L
12 Norwich City	27	7	11	9	27	41	-14	32	W D D D L
13 Newcastle United	27	8	6	13	38	48	-10	30	W L W W L
14 West Ham United	27	8	6	13	31	41	-10	30	L L W L L
15 Sunderland	27	7	8	12	29	36	-7	29	L L L D W
16 Southampton	27	6	9	12	38	49	-11	27	L W D L D
17 Wigan Athletic	27	6	6	15	33	51	-18	24	W L D D L
18 Aston Villa	27	5	9	13	26	52	-26	24	L W D L D
19 Reading	27	5	8	14	33	51	-18	23	L L W D W
20 QPR	27	2	11	14	19	43	-24	17	L L D D D

Latest Results	Next Match
Liverpool 5 - 0 Swansea City	Chelsea v West Bromwich
Fulham 1 - 0 Stoke City	Everton v Reading
Arsenal 2 - 1 Aston Villa	Man Utd v Norwich City
Norwich City 2 - 1 Everton	Southampton v QPR
QPR 0 - 2 Man Utd	Stoke City v West Ham
Reading 0 - 3 Wigan Athletic	Sunderland v Fulham
WBA 2 - 1 Sunderland	Swansea City v Newcastle
Man City 2 - 0 Chelsea	Wigan Athletic v Liverpool
Newcastle 4 - 2 Southampton	Tottenham v Arsenal
West Ham 2 - 3 Tottenham	Aston Villa v Man City

One To Watch This Weekend...

Is it about time that pundits put a little squeeze on Harry Redknapp and QPR? Still languishing last on the table, their hopes of staying up are fading fast. They travel to Southampton, another team looking for another season in the top division.

EPL Preview.

I was reading an article written in England's Guardian newspaper, which mentioned just how important this North London Derby between Tottenham and Arsenal is.

The article, (a summary of the week's previous matches) went on to mention that the importance of the game could not be "overstated". Thinking about it, this is probably of the biggest Arsenal-Tottenham clashes in while.

That's not to say, that whatever happens on the day, it's game over, far from it. 10 rounds are left in the season and a lot can happen, but you get the sense if Tottenham do pinch this one, Arsenal might find themselves out of the Champions League next season.

The gap stands at four points. If Spurs win, it's seven. The following week, Arsenal face Everton, who are sitting behind them by five points. Not to mention that Chelsea are ahead by two points. Lose to Spurs, then Everton, the Gunners can drop to sixth.

Of course, this is all hypothetical. Anything can happen. But Arsenal losing will certainly increase the already Mount-Everest-like pressure on Arsene Wenger. It could reach unprecedented levels, considering that, he's already coped some of the worst sting from the media and fans the past season.

Unsurprisingly, after the 2-1 win over relegation battling Aston Villa, Wenger went on to suggest that his side could still catch Manchester City.

"Man City are not out of reach depending on results over the weekend. It could be a tight fight until the end" said Wenger, ever the optimistic. However, it would be folly to suggest that Arsenal could pull such an amazing turn-around in form, considering their "confidence issues" Wenger bemoans about.

The same cannot be said for Andre Villas-Boas. The Portuguese manager has taken the task on at Spurs with relative ease. I've already written previously on how much Tottenham has impressed with Villas-Boas at the helm; and how's made great changes to the team. More importantly, his man-management skills have improved since his much-criticised Chelsea days.

Following the 1-1 draw with Lyon that meant progression to the Round of 16 in the Europa League, Mousa Dembele admitted it was the boss' "half-time rallying cry" that woke the team into action.

The decision to move winger and Welsh superstar Gareth Bale into the number '10' role or secondary striker has paid dividends; Bale has been in ferocious form lately. And he's even added more spice to the encounter, by saying that Spurs have a "stronger squad" than the Gunners.

"Over the past few seasons we have closed that gap and I think now we have overtaken them on the pitch. I think we have the stronger squad. Hopefully we can continue to do that as a club" Bale told The Sun.

"On the pitch and as a team now we are a lot more consistent and as a club we're moving in the right direction. Arsenal may say they are still ahead of us. But whatever people's opinions I don't think anyone can deny we are up there fighting with them on merit now."

Arsenal's Mikal Arteta says his teammates are ready for the derby ahead: "We are both not far from each other, fighting for the same thing. It is a big rivalry and I'm sure they will be waiting for us, so we need to be ready for that."

Andrew Bishara runs the popular football website http://thetrequartista.com

Arsene Wenger: Arsenal Past, Present, but Future?

London Eye

By Eddie Gray

The influence Arsene Wenger has had on Arsenal football club is undoubted.

Ever since his arrival in 1996 the Frenchman has not only revolutionised the Gunners, but also English football.

Prior to his first appearance in England there was a culture which puts the professional approach of today to shame, with drinking, social outings and low standards in training the norm at the majority of top flight clubs. But Wenger changed all of this at Arsenal and within two years had already secured a League and Cup double for his new team.

With a strict focus on the diet and fitness of his players, as well as on a passing style of play, the men from London became a huge force on the domestic scene, winning three Premier League titles, four F.A cups and four Community shields, not to mention going unbeaten for 49 league games which led to the side becoming recognised as 'The Invincibles'.

However, when the run finally came to an end, at the hands of Manchester United, the only club who offered Arsenal competition during the Wenger early years, it sparked a downturn at Highbury, and then the Emirates, which has seen them fall dramatically from the top.

The sun may well be setting on Arsene Wenger at Arsenal. Some are tipping that the man at the top of this page, Swansea City's Michael Laudrup, might actually be the best replacement.

Ever since their loss at Old Trafford in October 2004 Wenger's men have been unable to compete regularly for Premier League honours and quite astonishingly haven't won a trophy since that same year, with the FA Cup being the last silverware to enter their trophy cabinet.

Since then it has been eight long seasons without meaningful success and the ninth looks almost certain to follow. Arsenal currently sit 21 points off the top of the league with only 11 games to go, are out of both FA and League cups and go into the second leg of their Champions League tie against Bayern Munich 3-1 down with the German side still yet to lose in 2013.

This sustained period of underachievement has led many to question whether Wenger is still the man to lead Arsenal forward and rekindle their previous achievements.

One reason many have attributed to this baron spell is Wenger's repeated failure to spend any money on recognised stars, which has seen heavy spending Manchester City and Chelsea overtake them with relative ease, with both going on to win Premier League titles.

Instead of matching his rivals in the transfer market Wenger has continued to solely focus on recruiting players who he can nurture and develop. This strategy worked excellently in his early days at the club, with the likes of Thierry Henry being acquired at a young age and then honed into world beating talent, but in more recent years the Arsenal boss has seemingly lost his ability to convince his best players to stay at the club.

Wenger has still been able to produce players who could possibly have gone on to emulate what Henry did for the club, Cesc Fabregas and Robin Van Persie the best two examples, but his powers of persuasion look to have waned with him unable to retain the services of Van Persie, Fabregas plus Alex Song and Samir Nasri in recent years, which has resulted in Arsenal's quality and ambitions diminishing.

But this failure in the transfer market may not just lie at the feet of the Arsenal boss. The board at the Emirates have had a tight clutch on the purse strings since the multi million pound relocation from Highbury and it is rumoured this has had a strong influence on the availability of funds to bring in new talent.

A strong focus has clearly been placed on running Arsenal as a solid, break even minimum business, as to not jeopardise the future of the club, but this approach has undeniably left the Gunners miles behind in terms of on pitch performance, with a balance seemingly unable to be struck.

The shortcomings on the field have led even some of the most ardent and loyal fans of the London club to question Wenger, forcing some even to suggest he should be replaced, which let us not forget would have happened at any other club of Arsenal's size if they hadn't won a trophy in the same period.

But in reality removing the Frenchman would have very little benefit.

The debate over who to bring in instead of the highly talented 'professor' is a tricky one, with managers with similar type philosophies being discussed as well as those with complete polar opposites.

The only two men who could take Arsenal back to the top immediately and replace Wenger are Pep Guardiola and Jose Mourinho. However those two are both currently out of the question. Guardiola is set to join Bayern Munich and Mourinho is very unlikely to get the vote from the board as wherever he has been previously he has spent big money, something that just wouldn't happen at the Emirates considering their track record.

So for the foreseeable future it looks like Wenger will be in charge at Arsenal, until he decides otherwise, and he more than anyone will be seeking to end the trophy-less drought his side have been through.

Talk of a £70 million transfer budget this summer will bring hope to fans of the London club, who have so desperately wanted experienced, top class players to support their young upcoming stars, but there is no guarantee that the money will be spent with their current boss still at the helm. After all, Wenger supposedly has had the opportunity to splash the cash before and has consistently failed to do so.

Yet despite all this, the Arsenal manager still has the support of a large majority of the fans and that speaks volumes for how much he has done for the club and how they still have huge belief in him, despite his recent failings, and there may just be bright horizons for the reds in the not so distant future.

With the new financial fair play rules coming in, Wenger's and Arsenal's prudence in the transfer market may just prove to be a masterstroke and the Gunners could return to past glories must sooner than some may believe with others struggling to adapt financially.

Wrap Italia

By Luca Cetta

All square in Madonnina Derby

Inter pegged back Milan to ensure a 1-1 Milan Derby draw, while Juve comfortably defeated Siena. Roma triumphed in a blizzard, and it was business as usual in Palermo, with another coaching change.

Following their magnificent win over Barcelona, Milan took the tag of favourites into the 180th Serie A edition of the Derby della Madonnina. Since an appalling start, which consisted of five losses from the opening eight matches, Milan had lost just twice. This turnaround in form culminated with their fine 2-0 win over the Spanish giants.

Conversely, Inter's form has hit a downward trend. Since their historic Round 11 streak-ending victory at Juventus, the Nerazzurri had won just four from 14 matches. They were most recently thumped at Fiorentina. The loss of Diego Milito to a season-ending injury only compounded the situation. Yet Andrea Stramaccioni still garnered support from President Massimo Moratti.

The Derby was centred on the return of Mario Balotelli, making his debut for the Rossoneri in the city showdown. Both sides had a number of players missing, but Inter defender Andrea Ranocchia made a rapid recovery after going off injured in the Europa League.

Stephan El Shaarawy ended a month-long scoring drought when he finished clinically with the outside of his foot in the 20th minute. The Italo-Egyptian raced on to a Kevin-Prince Boateng pass after Inter coughed up possession in midfield. Balotelli was then denied by a super Samir Handanovic save. Inter's January signing Ezequiel Schelotto was summoned from the bench with 20 minutes remaining and his first touch glanced a Yuto Nagatomo cross past Christian Abbiati.

While Stramaccioni decreed a point apiece fair, Massimilano Allegri lamented Milan's inability to close the match. "When a match is hanging by a thread, you have to kill it off. Possession is crucial when you are in control of a game, but we gave the ball away too many times tonight."

Juventus looked to consolidate their lead ahead of the huge clash in Naples. Siena travelled to Turin in need of points to ease their relegation fears. Instead they found a revved up Juve, who were in command for most of the contest. Stephan Lichtsteiner opened the scoring in fortunate circumstances as the ball ricocheted off his body and looped into the net. Sebastian Giovinco extended the lead, although Siena threatened when Innocent Emeghara's header was tipped on to the crossbar by Gianluigi Buffon. Christian Terlizzi then smacked the post from distance. Paul Pogba concluded proceedings with a fine shot from distance. It finished 3-0.

Roma walked away from a Bergamo blizzard with a 3-2 victory. Snowfall was heavy in the first half, as Atalanta took the lead through Marko Livaja. Roma fought back, but the teams were level at the break after Livaja's second. The snow eased off, as Vasilis Torosidis scored his first Giallorossi goal to give Roma the points.

Palermo further plunged into crisis after Alberto Malesani was sacked on Sunday. His side drew 0-0 with Genoa, giving Malesani a record of three draws from three matches. That wasn't enough for President Maurizio Zamparini, who recalled the man sacked three weeks ago, Gian Piero Gasperini.

Cagliari and nine-man Torino played out a 4-3 thriller. Marco Sau put the hosts ahead in front of an empty Stadio Is Arenas, which failed another safety check. Toro went 2-1 up early in the second half. Then the game exploded. Daniele Conti equalised and Angelo Ogbonna saw red for a second bookable offence. Mauricio Pinilla converted the resulting spot-kick in the 86th minute. Torino substitute Abou Diop was on the field for less than 60 seconds when he was sent off for an elbow. It looked harsh. Torino somehow found an equaliser, as Rolando Bianchi converted a penalty. But in the 95th minute, Conti's deflected shot gave Cagliari the points.

Elsewhere, on Monday Napoli could only manage a 0-0 draw at Udinese, while two screamers saw Lazio breeze past Pescara 2-0. Catania raced into European contention with a win at Parma, while Bologna and Fiorentina was snowed off. It was played on Tuesday and finished 2-1. Finally, Sampdoria defeated Chievo 2-0.

Looking ahead: Potential Scudetto showdown?

Napoli host Juventus on Friday night and as Marek Hamsik notes, it is crucial Napoli get a result. The Azzurri are six points adrift after the Udine draw – their third straight stalemate – and must win to keep the race alive. Should Juve return home with maximum points it may signal the conclusion of the Scudetto battle. Giorgio Chiellini returned last week from a two-month layoff and is expected to start.

Another intriguing battle takes place when Milan host Lazio. Champions League football will be on the agenda for both sides, who are currently fourth and third respectively and locked in the battle to secure the final spot for Europe's premier club competition. Cristian Zapata is suspended for the hosts, after he reached the yellow card limit.

Inter face a tough trip to Catania, whose home record is equal to that of the top clubs. The Sicilians have lost just once in 2013 from eight matches, conceding only two goals in the process. Roma take on Genoa, who are unbeaten in five matches since Davide Ballardini took over.

Elsewhere, Bologna host in-form Cagliari, while Fiorentina look to keep pace with the European contenders at home against Chievo. Pescara are battling for their Serie A existence when they host Udinese, as Sampdoria look to consolidate their recent revival versus Parma. Siena and Atalanta clash and finally, Torino host crisis-club Palermo.

Mario Balotelli copped his fair share of abuse from fans after turning out for AC Milan against his former side, Internazionale.

ITALY Serie A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Juventus	26	18	4	4	53	17	+36	58	W L W W D
2 Napoli	26	15	7	4	46	21	+25	52	D D D W W
3 Lazio	26	14	5	7	37	29	+8	47	W L D L L
4 Milan	26	13	6	7	45	32	+13	45	D W D W W
5 Internazionale	26	13	5	8	41	34	+7	44	D L W L D
6 Fiorentina	25	12	6	7	45	30	+15	42	W L W L D
7 Catania	26	12	6	8	34	31	+3	42	W W D L W
8 Roma	26	12	4	10	54	47	+7	40	W W L L D
9 Udinese	26	9	10	7	35	34	+1	37	D L W L W
10 Sampdoria	26	9	6	11	33	30	+3	32	W D W D W
11 Parma	26	8	8	10	32	35	-3	32	L L D L L
12 Cagliari	26	8	7	11	32	44	-12	31	W W D W D
13 Torino	26	7	11	8	32	32	+0	31	L W L D D
14 Chievo	26	8	5	13	26	42	-16	29	L D L L W
15 Atalanta	26	8	5	13	24	38	-14	27	L L D W L
16 Bologna	25	7	5	13	33	35	-2	26	L D W D L
17 Genoa	26	6	8	12	26	37	-11	26	D W D W D
18 Siena	26	7	6	13	27	37	-10	21	L W D W L
19 Pescara	26	6	3	17	20	53	-33	21	L L D L L
20 Palermo	26	3	11	12	22	39	-17	20	D D D L D

Latest Results	This Week
Palermo 0 - 0 Genoa	Bologna v Fiorentina
Sampdoria 2 - 0 Chievo	Napoli v Juventus
Parma 1 - 2 Catania	Milan v Lazio
Atalanta 2 - 3 Roma	Torino v Palermo
Juventus 3 - 0 Siena	Siena v Atalanta
Cagliari 4 - 3 Torino	Bologna v Cagliari
Inter 1 - 1 Milan	Fiorentina v Chievo
Udinese 0 - 0 Napoli	Catania v Inter
Lazio 2 - 0 Pescara	Sampdoria v Parma
	Pescara v Udinese
	Roma v Genoa

One To Watch This Weekend...

The match in Naples is one fans of both clubs have been eagerly awaiting for weeks. Overall the teams are evenly split, with 21 Partenopei wins to Juve's 20 in 67 Naples meetings. Yet the Bianconeri have not won at the Stadio San Paolo since 2000-01, claiming just two draws in six subsequent visits between Serie A and Serie B.

Viva Espana

By Pepe Lopez

Foxtel Come To The Party

Your number one Spanish football correspondent Pepe Lopez, after 6 months of attempting to contact both ESPN Australia and Foxtel on the matter, is delighted to announce a victory for Australian La Liga fans this week. Foxtel will this week broadcast live on Fox Sports HD, 2 El Clasicos.

The Spanish La Liga was previously covered by ESPN Australia for many years until it was suddenly cut from ESPN Australia's schedule just prior to the 2012-13 season. The 1st El Clasico was televised on Fox Sports 1 HD Wednesday morning, Real Madrid v Barcelona FC from Camp Nou in Barcelona, which was the 2nd leg of the Spanish Copa Del Rey semi final. The 2nd El Clasico will be broadcast live from Estadio Santiago Bernabeu in Madrid, Real Madrid v Barcelona in round 26 of the Spanish La Liga, live Sunday morning AET at 2am on Fox Sports HD 3. The Copa Del Rey 2nd leg was also broadcasted live on SBS HD for Australian free to air viewers, something that SBS has done in recent years when Spain's top 2 teams have played each other in this competition.

Real Madrid take out Barcelona 4-2 on agg. in the Copa del Rey semi-final

Barcelona's Dial A Coach Strategy A Complete Fracas, Fracaso & Failure!

Respectfully Barcelona FC have granted their coach Tito Vilanova leave of absence to receive extended cancer rehabilitation treatment in New York, USA. The only issue for the highest paid team in the world, is that the leave of absence has come at the business end of the season for Barcelona FC. Barcelona FC have now all but surrendered their hopes of Cup Glory in 2013, losing the 1st leg of their UEFA Champions League Round of 16 tie against AC Milan 2-0 at the San Siro, virtually simultaneously Barcelona FC have been dumped from the Spanish Copa Del Rey after suffering a 3-1 loss to Real Madrid at Camp Nou in the 2nd leg of the semi finals.

The plan approved by Barcelona FC's President Sandro Rosell, is for Tito Vilanova to watch Barcelona matches live from his residence in New York and to phone into the dressing room before, at halftime and after the matches. Murphy's law suggested that Barca were heading for a fall, when their President Sandro Rosell recently boasted about the current squad to local media; "This Barcelona are the best team ever. They say that everything moves in three-year cycles. We've already had four great years, though.

We'll see how the fifth one turns out, but it's looking good."

Rosell, evidently struggling to keep his feet on the ground, just in the past few weeks negotiated with selected star players, Xavi, Iniesta, Messi new long term contracts. Sandro's statements and actions were clearly miss timed. The Barca President would have been best advised to use any spare funds to find a care-taker coach to fill in for Tito Vilanova for the remainder of the season, as opposed to paying players he already had under contract, higher wages, and potentially dampening the motivation of his team ahead of crucial fixtures. One name that would have had the full support of Barca Fans to fill in as care-taker coach would have been Barca's former Honorary President, former Barca coach, former Barca player, former Dutch International, former 3-time Ballon D'or winner and former Catalan regional coach Johan Cruyff. Cruyff famously introduced "tiki-taka" style of passing game to Barcelona FC.

However, in 2010, Johan Cruyff was unceremoniously stripped of his title "Honorary President" of Barca on minor legal technicalities by ... Sandro Rosell.

Copa del Rey Semi Finals Wrap Sevilla 2 Atletico Madrid 2 (agg 3-4)

Atletico Madrid have set up a grudge match Copa del Rey final against Real Madrid after drawing 2-2 with Sevilla.

At the Estadio Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan, Atletico held off a late charge from Sevilla to advance to the competition's decider through a 4-3 aggregate scoreline over the semi-final's two legs.

Barcelona 1 Real Madrid 3 (agg 2-4)

Real Madrid stormed into the Copa Del Rey final with an emphatic 3-1 victory over Barcelona in the second leg of their semi-final.

With a 1-1 home draw to overcome from the first leg, Jose Mourinho looked on in jubilation as his team executed their gameplan to perfection, frustrating the Catalans at the back, and through an inspirational Cristiano Ronaldo, giving a counterattacking clinic up front.

The Portuguese superstar opened the scoring from the penalty spot 12 minutes in, becoming the first player to score in six successive Clasicos away from home, and finished off a surging break shortly before the hour mark to put Real in the driving seat.

SPAIN La Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Barcelona	25	22	2	1	82	28	+54	68	W W W D W
2 Atlético Madrid	25	18	2	5	48	23	+25	56	W W L W L
3 Real Madrid	25	16	4	5	62	23	+39	52	W W W L W
4 Málaga	25	12	6	7	37	24	+13	42	L W W D W
5 Valencia	25	12	5	8	36	37	-1	41	D W W D W
6 Real Sociedad	25	11	7	7	41	31	+10	40	W D W W D
7 Real Betis	25	12	3	10	34	35	-1	39	W L D L L
8 Rayo Vallecano	25	12	1	12	34	43	-9	37	L L W L W
9 Getafe	25	10	5	10	35	44	-9	35	W W L W L
10 Levante	25	10	4	11	30	38	-8	34	L D L L W
11 Real Valladolid	25	9	6	10	34	33	+1	33	W L D D L
12 Sevilla	25	9	5	11	34	37	-3	32	L W L W W
13 Espanyol	25	8	7	10	31	35	-4	31	L W W W D
14 Osasuna	25	7	7	11	22	27	-5	28	W W D W L
15 Athletic Club	25	7	5	13	30	50	-20	26	L L L D W
16 Granada	25	7	5	13	24	36	-12	26	L L W W L
17 Real Zaragoza	25	7	4	14	25	36	-11	25	D L L D D
18 Celta de Vigo	25	6	5	14	24	32	-8	23	W L L L D
19 Mallorca	25	4	6	15	24	48	-24	18	L L D L L
20 Deportivo La C…	25	3	7	15	29	56	-27	16	L L L L L

Latest Results	This Week
Athletic Club 1 - 3 R Sociedad	Getafe v Real Zaragoza
Mallorca 1 - 3 Getafe	Real Madrid v Barcelona
Real Zaragoza 2 - 2 Valencia	Deportivo v R Vallecano
Deportivo 1 - 2 Real Madrid	Osasuna v Athletic Club
Barcelona 2 - 1 Sevilla	Valencia v Levante
R Vallecano 1 - 2 R Valladolid	Granada v Mallorca
Celta de Vigo 2 - 1 Granada	Espanyol v R Valladolid
Atlético Madrid 1 - 0 Espanyol	Málaga v Ath Madrid
Real Betis 3 - 0 Málaga	Real Sociedad v Real Betis
Levante 0 - 2 Osasuna	Sevilla v Celta de Vigo

One To Watch This Weekend...

The Basque Country derby will be played on Saturday morning, Australian East Coast Time between Atheltic Bilbao and Real Sociedad at San Memes Stadium in Bilbao. Despite a huge disparity between the historical success of each club, it will be Real Sociedad from San Sebastian who will go into the match the more confident team, currently in 6th place and in position for Europa League qualification. Bilbao on the other hand are only 2 wins above the relegation zone, and will be desperate to end this sorry season of poor results, without getting relegated.

CROATIA 1.HNL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Dinamo Zagreb	20	14	2	4	44	17	+27	44	W L W L W
2 Hajduk Split	20	10	6	4	29	14	+15	36	W W D D D
3 Lokomotiva	21	10	6	5	32	25	+7	36	W D W L W
4 Split	21	10	3	8	33	27	+6	33	L W L W W
5 Rijeka	21	9	6	6	29	27	+2	33	D L D D W
6 Slaven Koprivnica	21	9	5	7	30	30	+0	32	D L D W L
7 Osijek	21	6	9	6	21	20	+1	27	D L W L D
8 Istra 1961	21	5	7	9	19	24	-5	22	D D L D L
9 Inter Zaprešic	21	4	8	9	23	28	-5	20	D L L L L
10 Cibalia	21	5	5	11	18	31	-13	20	D W L D L
11 Zadar	21	5	5	11	22	38	-16	20	L W W D W
12 Zagreb	21	5	4	12	16	35	-19	19	W L W D W

TURKEY Süper Lig

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Galatasaray	23	13	7	3	46	27	+19	46	W W W D W
2 Fenerbahçe	23	11	7	5	37	25	+12	40	W W W L W
3 Beşiktaş	23	10	9	4	48	33	+15	39	W D W D L
4 Bursaspor	23	8	10	5	35	28	+7	34	L W W D L
5 Antalyaspor	23	10	4	9	33	33	+0	34	L D L W L
6 Kasımpaşa	23	9	6	8	32	26	+6	33	L W L D W
7 Eskişehirspor	23	8	9	6	38	29	+9	33	D L W D W
8 Kayserispor	23	9	5	9	31	32	-1	32	W W D W W
9 Trabzonspor	23	8	6	9	26	27	-1	30	W L L W L
10 Gençlerbirliği	23	7	9	7	35	35	+0	30	L W L L W
11 Karabükspor	23	8	5	10	28	37	-9	29	L D L D L
12 Sivasspor	23	8	5	10	25	30	-5	29	L L W W L
13 Gaziantepspor	23	7	7	9	23	33	-10	28	W D W L L
14 İstanbul BB	23	7	6	10	29	30	-1	27	D D L L W
15 Orduspor	23	5	11	7	26	28	-2	26	L D D W L
16 Elazığspor	23	5	9	9	19	35	-16	24	W L L D W
17 Akhisar Beledi…	23	5	7	11	19	32	-13	22	W L W L L
18 Mersin İdmanyurdu	23	4	8	11	23	33	-10	20	L L L D W

SERBIA Super Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Partizan	15	12	1	2	45	12	+33	37	D W L W W
2 Crvena Zvezda	15	10	1	4	31	22	+9	31	L W W L L
3 Jagodina	15	9	2	4	17	10	+7	29	W W L L W
4 Vojvodina	15	7	7	1	13	7	+6	28	W D W W D
5 Rad Beograd	15	7	4	4	18	11	+7	25	D W W L D
6 Javor Ivanjica	15	7	2	6	22	14	+8	23	W W D W W
7 Sloboda Užice	15	6	5	4	19	20	-1	23	W L W D D
8 Spartak Subotica	15	6	4	5	21	16	+5	22	D L W D W
9 OFK Beograd	15	6	3	6	19	16	+3	21	W W W W L
10 Novi Pazar	15	3	6	6	17	20	-3	15	L L D L D
11 Donji Srem	15	4	3	8	13	20	-7	15	L L L D W
12 Radnički Niš	15	3	5	7	14	27	-13	14	D L L D L
13 BSK Borča	15	4	2	9	14	34	-20	14	L L W D L
14 Hajduk Kula	15	3	4	8	14	20	-6	13	W W L D L
15 Radnički 1923 …	15	2	6	7	12	22	-10	12	L D L L W
16 Smederevo	15	1	5	9	6	24	-18	8	L L L W L

GERMANY Bundesliga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Bayern München	23	19	3	1	63	8	+55	60	W W W W W
2 Borussia Dortmund	23	12	7	4	51	27	+24	43	D W L W W
3 Bayer Leverkusen	23	12	6	5	43	30	+13	42	D W D L D
4 Eintracht Fran…	23	11	5	7	38	34	+4	38	D L D W W
5 Freiburg	23	9	8	6	29	22	+7	35	D W W L D
6 Hamburger SV	23	10	4	9	28	32	-4	34	L W W L W
7 Hannover 96	23	10	3	10	46	42	+4	33	W D W L W
8 Mainz 05	23	9	6	8	31	28	+3	33	D D D L W
9 Schalke 04	23	9	6	8	37	38	-1	33	W D L L D
10 Borussia M'gla…	23	7	10	6	32	34	-2	31	D L D L W
11 Stuttgart	23	8	5	10	25	40	-15	29	D W L L L
12 Werder Bremen	23	8	4	11	39	47	-8	28	L L W W L
13 Fortuna Düsseldorf	23	7	6	10	28	31	-3	27	L W L W L
14 Nürnberg	23	6	9	8	23	30	-7	27	D D D W L
15 Wolfsburg	23	7	6	10	23	33	-10	27	D L W D L
16 Augsburg	23	3	9	11	20	36	-16	18	W L D D D
17 Hoffenheim	23	4	4	15	27	48	-21	16	L L L W L
18 Greuther Fürth	23	2	7	14	13	36	-23	13	D L L W L

HOLLAND Eredivisie

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSV	24	16	2	6	78	27	+51	50	L W D W W
2 Ajax	24	13	9	2	54	25	+29	48	D W D W L
3 Feyenoord	24	14	5	5	47	32	+15	47	W L W W D
4 Vitesse	24	13	6	5	48	31	+17	45	W W D L W
5 Twente	24	12	8	4	40	22	+18	44	L D D L D
6 Utrecht	24	12	6	6	38	27	+11	42	W L L W W
7 NEC	24	10	6	8	35	38	-3	36	W L W W W
8 ADO Den Haag	24	7	11	6	38	42	-4	32	D W W L D
9 Groningen	24	8	5	11	23	35	-12	29	W L W W L
10 Heracles	24	6	10	8	48	50	-2	28	L D W D L
11 NAC Breda	24	7	6	11	26	40	-14	27	W D L W W
12 Heerenveen	24	6	8	10	34	45	-11	26	W L D W D
13 AZ	24	6	7	11	34	41	-7	25	L D L L W
14 RKC Waalwijk	24	5	8	11	25	32	-7	23	L L L L L
15 PEC Zwolle	24	5	8	11	25	38	-13	23	L W D L D
16 Roda JC	24	4	10	10	32	49	-17	22	L D D D D
17 VVV	24	5	7	12	28	49	-21	22	W W D L L
18 Willem II	24	2	8	14	23	53	-30	14	L D L L L

SCOTLAND SPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Celtic	27	18	5	4	62	21	+41	59	D W W W W
2 Motherwell	26	11	7	8	43	35	+8	40	L W L W L
3 Inverness CT	26	9	11	6	50	44	+6	38	L D L L W
4 Hibernian	27	10	7	10	34	34	+0	37	W L L D D
5 St. Johnstone	27	9	10	8	33	33	+0	37	D L W W L
6 Kilmarnock	27	9	9	9	41	35	+6	36	W D W L D
7 Aberdeen	27	9	9	9	32	34	-2	36	W D L D L
8 Dundee United	27	9	9	9	43	48	-5	36	W L W D L
9 Ross County	26	8	11	7	32	34	-2	35	W W D W D
10 Heart of Midlo…	26	7	9	10	25	34	-9	30	L L D W L
11 St. Mirren	26	7	8	11	33	44	-11	29	L D W L D
12 Dundee	26	3	5	18	14	46	-32	14	L L L D D

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Cardiff City	33	22	4	7	55	34	+21	70	W L W D W
2 Watford	34	19	5	10	68	43	+25	62	W W W D W
3 Hull City	34	19	5	10	46	37	+9	62	L W W W L
4 Crystal Palace	34	16	10	8	60	42	+18	58	L W W D W
5 Leicester City	33	17	6	10	56	28	+28	57	W D L L W
6 Brighton & Hov…	33	13	13	7	46	34	+12	52	W W D W L
7 Middlesbrough	34	16	3	15	52	52	+0	51	L D L W L
8 Nottingham Forest	34	12	12	10	49	46	+3	48	W W D L L
9 Leeds United	33	13	7	13	43	48	-5	46	D W L D L
10 Bolton Wanderers	34	11	12	11	50	47	+3	45	W W D D W
11 Blackburn Rovers	34	11	12	11	42	43	-1	45	L D L D W
12 Derby County	34	11	11	12	50	48	+2	44	L D D L D
13 Burnley	34	12	8	14	47	48	-1	44	L L D L D
14 Millwall	33	12	8	13	44	49	-5	44	W L L L L
15 Charlton Athletic	34	11	10	13	43	47	-4	43	L W L D L
16 Birmingham City	34	10	12	12	43	52	-9	42	W D L D W
17 Blackpool	34	10	11	13	50	49	+1	41	D L L W L
18 Huddersfield Town	34	10	11	13	35	57	-22	41	W D L D L
19 Sheffield Wedn…	33	11	7	15	39	47	-8	40	W D D W W
20 Ipswich Town	34	10	9	15	34	54	-20	39	D L W L W
21 Barnsley	33	10	7	16	41	53	-12	37	L W W W W
22 Wolverhampton …	34	9	8	17	39	49	-10	35	L L D D L
23 Bristol City	34	10	4	20	51	65	-14	34	W L L W L
24 Peterborough U…	33	10	3	20	48	59	-11	33	L L W W D

LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Doncaster Rovers	34	18	8	8	48	32	+16	62	W D D D L
2 Sheffield United	34	16	13	5	48	29	+19	61	D W W W W
3 Tranmere Rovers	35	17	9	9	54	36	+18	60	D W L L L
4 Swindon Town	34	16	11	7	56	24	+32	59	L D W D W
5 Brentford	33	15	13	5	47	33	+14	58	W D W D L
6 Yeovil Town	34	18	4	12	56	43	+13	58	L D W W W
7 AFC Bournemouth	35	16	10	9	57	45	+12	58	L L L W W
8 Coventry City	35	15	8	12	56	42	+14	53	W L W L W
9 Walsall	35	14	10	11	49	48	+1	52	W D D W W
10 Notts County	34	12	13	9	49	37	+12	49	D W D D L
11 Crewe Alexandra	33	13	8	12	40	44	-4	47	L W L D W
12 Leyton Orient	34	14	5	15	36	40	-4	47	D L L W W
13 Milton Keynes Don	32	12	10	10	42	36	+6	46	D D D L L
14 Crawley Town	32	13	7	12	41	45	-4	46	L W D L D
15 Stevenage	33	12	7	14	39	46	-7	43	L L L L L
16 Carlisle United	34	11	8	15	41	59	-18	41	L D D L W
17 Shrewsbury Town	35	9	13	13	39	43	-4	40	L W W L W
18 Preston North End	33	9	12	12	42	43	-1	39	D W L L L
19 Scunthorpe United	35	10	8	17	38	57	-19	38	W L L W W
20 Oldham Athletic	33	10	6	17	35	46	-11	36	W W W L L
21 Colchester United	34	10	5	19	34	55	-21	35	W L L W L
22 Bury	34	6	12	16	33	52	-19	30	W L L L D
23 Hartlepool United	34	7	9	18	33	54	-21	30	W W W D D
24 Portsmouth	35	5	9	21	35	59	-24	24	D L D D L

LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Gillingham	34	19	8	7	52	27	+25	65	L W W D W
2 Port Vale	34	18	9	7	65	35	+30	63	L W L D W
3 Burton Albion	35	17	8	10	55	45	+10	59	W W W W D
4 Northampton Town	35	17	7	11	55	45	+10	58	W W D W W
5 Rotherham United	33	17	5	11	53	46	+7	56	D W W W L
6 Exeter City	34	16	7	11	52	44	+8	55	W L W W D
7 Cheltenham Town	35	14	13	8	46	42	+4	55	D D D W L
8 Fleetwood Town	34	13	12	9	43	38	+5	51	D L L W W
9 Southend United	34	14	8	12	48	37	+11	50	L W L L D
10 Morecambe	35	12	10	13	45	46	-1	46	L D W W L
11 Oxford United	34	13	7	14	44	48	-4	46	W D W L L
12 Bradford City	32	12	9	11	45	39	+6	45	D L W L D
13 Wycombe Wander	34	13	6	15	41	47	-6	45	W L L L W
14 Chesterfield	34	11	11	12	40	35	+5	44	D L L W D
15 Dagenham & Red	35	11	9	15	46	48	-2	42	D L L W D
16 Rochdale	34	11	9	14	49	54	-5	42	L D W L D
17 York City	35	8	16	11	39	49	-10	40	D D L D L
18 Bristol Rovers	34	10	9	15	42	56	-14	39	L D L W W
19 Aldershot Town	35	9	11	15	32	45	-13	38	D W W D L
20 Barnet	34	9	10	15	34	45	-11	37	W D W D L
21 Torquay United	34	9	10	15	38	44	-6	37	L L L L L
22 Accrington Stanley	34	9	9	16	36	53	-17	36	W D L D L
23 AFC Wimbledon	34	9	9	16	38	59	-21	36	D W D W L
24 Plymouth Argyle	34	7	12	15	34	45	-11	33	D L L W D

Greece Super League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	23	19	3	1	49	14	+35	60	W W W L W
2 Asteras Tripolis	23	13	5	5	32	15	+17	44	W W L D W
3 PAOK	23	12	7	4	33	16	+17	43	W D W D L
4 Atromitos	23	9	11	3	22	16	+6	38	D D D W L
5 PAS Giannina	23	8	8	7	20	18	+2	32	D D W D W
6 Panathinaikos	23	7	10	6	25	24	+1	29	W L L D W
7 Levadiakos	23	8	5	10	17	22	-5	29	L D L D L
8 Xanthi	23	7	7	9	18	21	-3	28	L L W W W
9 Panionios	23	9	1	13	25	30	-5	28	W L L L W
10 Platanias	23	7	6	10	22	28	-6	27	W W W L L
11 OFI	23	7	5	11	26	33	-7	26	L L L W L
12 Panthrakikos	23	7	5	11	22	27	-5	26	L D W L L
13 AEK Athens	23	7	5	11	19	24	-5	26	L D W W W
14 Veria	23	5	8	10	17	27	-10	23	W L D W L
15 Aris	23	4	10	9	21	34	-13	22	L W L D D
16 Kerkyra	23	3	8	12	12	31	-19	17	L W L L D

France Ligue 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSG	26	16	6	4	49	16	+33	54	W L W W W
2 Olympique Lyonnais	26	15	6	5	46	25	+21	51	W W L L W
3 Olympique Mars…	26	14	4	8	32	31	+1	46	L W D L D
4 Nice	26	12	9	5	39	28	+11	45	W W D W L
5 Saint-Étienne	26	12	8	6	40	19	+21	44	W D W W W
6 Montpellier	26	12	5	9	41	32	+9	41	W W L W W
7 Rennes	26	12	5	9	39	34	+5	41	D L W D D
8 Lille	26	10	10	6	35	26	+9	40	W W W D L
9 Lorient	26	10	9	7	42	42	+0	39	L W D D L
10 Bordeaux	26	9	11	6	26	22	+4	38	L L L W W
11 Valenciennes	26	9	7	10	34	36	-2	34	D L W L L
12 Toulouse	26	8	9	9	32	32	+0	33	D D L L D
13 Ajaccio	26	7	10	9	29	36	-7	29	L D W W D
14 Brest	26	8	4	14	27	36	-9	28	W D L L L
15 Sochaux	26	7	6	13	27	38	-11	27	D W D L L
16 Bastia	26	7	6	13	29	51	-22	27	D L L D L
17 Reims	26	5	9	12	22	31	-9	24	L D W L D
18 Evian TG	26	5	8	13	25	39	-14	23	L L D D D
19 Troyes	26	3	11	12	28	46	-18	20	D D D D W
20 Nancy	26	3	9	14	22	44	-22	18	L L L W W

Portugal Premeira Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Porto	20	16	4	0	49	10	+39	52	W W D W W
2 Benfica	20	16	4	0	50	14	+36	52	W W D W W
3 Paços de Ferreira	20	9	8	3	27	18	+9	35	L D W W W
4 Sporting Braga	20	10	4	6	44	30	+14	34	W D L D L
5 Rio Ave	20	8	5	7	25	26	-1	29	L D W W D
6 Marítimo	20	7	7	6	22	30	-8	28	W W W L D
7 Estoril	20	7	4	9	30	29	+1	25	W L W L D
8 Vitória Guimarães	20	6	6	8	21	32	-11	24	L W L L D
9 Nacional	20	6	5	9	29	34	-5	23	W D D L W
10 Vitória Setúbal	20	6	5	9	22	36	-14	23	W W W L L
11 Sporting CP	20	5	7	8	20	25	-5	22	L W L L D
12 Académica	20	4	8	8	27	31	-4	20	L L L D W
13 Gil Vicente	20	4	7	9	20	31	-11	19	D L L W L
14 Olhanense	20	3	8	9	21	31	-10	17	L L D D D
15 Beira-Mar	20	3	6	11	23	38	-15	15	L L L D L
16 Moreirense	20	3	6	11	19	34	-15	15	D L W W L

One Game At A Time

France

Montpellier v Rennes
Reims v PSG
Saint-Étienne v Nice
Lorient v Valenciennes
Sochaux v Nancy
Bastia v Ajaccio
Toulouse v Evian TG
Brest v Olympique Lyonnais
Olympique Mars… v Troyes
Lille v Bordeaux

Germany

Eintracht Fran… v Borussia M'gla…
Borussia Dortmund v Hannover 96
Wolfsburg v Schalke 04
Werder Bremen v Augsburg
Nürnberg v Freiburg
Hamburger SV v Greuther Fürth
Bayer Leverkusen v Stuttgart
Hoffenheim v Bayern München
Fortuna Düsseldorf v Mainz 05

Croatia

Hajduk Split v Dinamo Zagreb
Inter Zaprešic v Zagreb
Split v Osijek
Zadar v Lokomotiva
Cibalia v Hajduk Split
Dinamo Zagreb v Slaven Koprivnica
Istra 1961 v Rijeka

Serbia

Hajduk Kula v Jagodina
Donji Srem v OFK Beograd
BSK Borča v Partizan
Spartak Subotica v Sloboda Užice
Smederevo v Vojvodina
Crvena Zvezda v Javor Ivanjica
Radnički 1923 … v Rad Beograd
Radnički Niš v Novi Pazar

League enters winter break and resumes again in February 2013

English Championship

Wolverhampton …v Watford
Derby County vCrystal Palace
Leeds United v Millwall
Charlton Athletic v Burnley
Middlesbrough v Cardiff City
Barnsley v Bolton Wanderers
Hull City v Birmingham City
Blackburn Rovers v Peterborough U…
Ipswich Town v Leicester City
Blackpool v Bristol City
Brighton & Hov… v Huddersfield Town
Sheffield Wedn… v Nottingham Forest

English League One

Brentford v Scunthorpe United
Walsall v Shrewsbury Town
Doncaster Rovers v Hartlepool United
Notts County v Carlisle United
Leyton Orient v AFC Bournemouth
Coventry City v Swindon Town
Oldham Athletic v Sheffield United
Milton Keynes Dons v Preston North End
Crewe Alexandra v Portsmouth
Stevenage v Colchester United
Bury v Crawley Town
Yeovil Town v Tranmere Rovers

English League Two

Southend United v Rotherham United
Exeter City v Northampton Town
Accrington Stanley v Torquay United
Bristol Rovers v Burton Albion
Plymouth Argyle v Barnet
Morecambe v Rochdale
York City v Bradford City
Wycombe Wanderers v Fleetwood Town
Dagenham & Red… v Chesterfield
Cheltenham Town v AFC Wimbledon
Aldershot Town v Gillingham
Oxford United v Port Vale

Scotland

Heart of Midlo… v Inverness CT
Kilmarnock v Aberdeen
Ross County v Motherwell
St. Johnstone v St. Mirren
Celtic v Dundee
Dundee United v Hibernian

Greece

Kerkyra v Platanias
Panthrakikos v Atromitos
OFI v Olympiakos Piraeus
Levadiakos v Xanthi
PAOK v Panionios
PAS Giannina v Asteras Tripolis
AEK Athens v Panathinaikos
Veria v Aris

Turkey

Gençlerbirliği v İstanbul BB
Orduspor v Karabükspor
Eskişehirspor v Galatasaray
Akhisar Beledi… v Elazığspor
Kayserispor v Mersin İdmanyurdu
Antalyaspor v Gaziantepspor
Bursaspor v Sivasspor
Beşiktaş v Fenerbahçe
Kasımpaşa v Trabzonspor

Holland

Vitesse v Utrecht
NAC Breda v Heerenveen
PEC Zwolle v Willem II
PSV v VVV
Twente v Ajax
NEC v Feyenoord
RKC Waalwijk v AZ
Roda JC v Groningen
ADO Den Haag v Heracles

Portugal

Paços de Ferreira v Vitória Setúbal
Sporting CP v Porto
Gil Vicente v Nacional
Rio Ave v Estoril
Marítimo v Moreirense
Beira-Mar v Benfica
Vitória Guimarães v Académica
Olhanense v Sporting Braga

…Results…Results….Results…..Results….Results….Results…Results…Results…Results…Results…Results…

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Watford 2 - 1 Derby County
Huddersfield Town 0 - 0 Ipswich Town
Blackburn Rovers 0 - 0 Leeds United
Blackpool 0 - 0 Leicester City
Bristol City 5 - 3 Barnsley
Peterborough U… 0 - 2 Birmingham City
Brighton & Hov… 1 - 0 Burnley
Sheffield Wedn… 1 - 0 Crystal Palace
Bolton Wanderers 4 - 1 Hull City
Charlton Athletic 0 - 2 Nottingham Forest
Middlesbrough 1 - 2 Millwall
Wolverhampton … 1 - 2 Cardiff City
Leicester City 3-0 Blackburn Rovers
Burnley 0-1 Huddersfield Town
Bolton Wanderers 1-0 Peterborough U…

ENGLISH LEAGUE ONE

Carlisle United 0 - 3 Walsall
Hartlepool United 3 - 0 Crewe Alexandra
Colchester United 2 - 0 Yeovil Town
Sheffield United 0 - 0 Leyton Orient
AFC Bournemouth 0 - 2 Coventry City
Shrewsbury Town 1 - 2 Doncaster Rovers
Crawley Town 1 - 2 Brentford
Portsmouth 1 - 1 Milton Keynes Dons
Swindon Town 0 - 1 Bury
Tranmere Rovers 1 - 1 Notts County
Scunthorpe United 1 - 0 Stevenage

ENGLISH LEAGUE TWO

Rotherham United 1 - 1 York City
Chesterfield 0 - 0 Aldershot Town
Burton Albion 3 - 2 Morecambe
Rochdale 0 - 3 Accrington Stanley
Northampton Town 1 - 0 Bristol Rovers
Fleetwood Town 1 - 1 Cheltenham Town
Port Vale 0 - 2 Exeter City
Gillingham 0 - 1 Oxford United
Torquay United 1 - 2 Wycombe Wanderers
AFC Wimbledon 1 - 1 Plymouth Argyle
Barnet 2 - 0 Southend United
Bradford City 1 - 1 Dagenham & Red…

CROATIA

Slaven Koprivnica 0 - 2 Hajduk Split
Dinamo Zagreb 4 - 1 Rijeka
Lokomotiva 3 - 2 Split
Zagreb 2 - 1 Zadar
Slaven Koprivnica 2 - 2 Inter Zaprešic
Osijek 0 - 0 Istra 1961
Rijeka 0 - 0 Cibalia

FRANCE

Nice 2 - 0 Reims
Rennes 2 - 2 Sochaux
Ajaccio 1 - 3 Lille
Nancy 0 - 3 Saint-Étienne
Troyes 0 - 0 Bastia
Evian TG 0 - 1 Montpellier
Valenciennes 0 - 0 Toulouse
Olympique Lyonnais 3 - 1 Lorient
Bordeaux 0 - 2 Brest
PSG 2 - 0 Olympique Mars…

GERMANY

Freiburg 0 - 0 Eintracht Fran…
Bayern München 6 - 1 Werder Bremen
Stuttgart 1 - 1 Nürnberg
Hannover 96 5 - 1 Hamburger SV
Mainz 05 1 - 1 Wolfsburg
Augsburg 2 - 1 Hoffenheim
Schalke 04 2 - 1 Fortuna Düsseldorf
Borussia M'gla… 1 - 1 Borussia Dortmund
Greuther Fürth 0 - 0 Bayer Leverkusen

GREECE

Aris 1 - 0 Panathinaikos
OFI 1 - 3 Platanias
Xanthi 0 - 2 Veria
PAOK 3 - 1 Kerkyra
Panathinaikos 3 - 1 OFI
Asteras Tripolis 1 - 0 Levadiakos
Atromitos 0 - 0 PAS Giannina
Panionios 2 - 0 Panthrakikos
Platanias 2 - 1 AEK Athens
Olympiakos Piraeus 2 - 1 Aris

HOLLAND

Willem II 2 - 3 NEC
Heracles 3 - 5 Vitesse
Groningen 1 - 0 PEC Zwolle
VVV 1 - 0 RKC Waalwijk
Heerenveen 2 - 1 Twente
Feyenoord 2 - 1 PSV
Utrecht 4 - 0 Roda JC
Ajax 1 - 1 ADO Den Haag
AZ 0 - 1 NAC Breda

PORTUGAL

Estoril 3 - 1 Sporting CP
Vitória Setúbal 1 - 0 Beira-Mar
Sporting Braga 3 - 2 Vitória Guimarães
Porto 2 - 1 Rio Ave
Nacional 3 - 1 Olhanense
Moreirense 0 - 0 Gil Vicente
Benfica 3 - 0 Paços de Ferreira
Académica 2 - 3 Marítimo

SCOTLAND

Heart of Midlo… 2 - 3 Inverness CT
Kilmarnock 1 - 1 Aberdeen
Ross County 3 - 0 Motherwell
St. Johnstone 1 - 0 St. Mirren
Celtic 5 - 0 Dundee
Dundee United 2 - 2 Hibernian

MidWeek

Dundee United 2 - 2 Hibernian
Aberdeen 0 - 1 Ross County
Hibernian 2 - 2 Kilmarnock
Inverness CT 0 - 0 Dundee United
Motherwell 2 - 1 Celtic
St. Mirren 2 - 0 Heart of Midlo…
Dundee 2 - 2 St. Johnstone

TURKEY

Gaziantepspor 2 - 1 Bursaspor
İstanbul BB 2 - 2 Eskişehirspor
Elazığspor 2 - 1 Antalyaspor
Sivasspor 0 - 1 Beşiktaş
Mersin İdmanyurdu 0 - 1 Trabzonspor
Kayserispor 1 - 0 Gençlerbirliği
Fenerbahçe 3 - 1 Kasımpaşa
Karabükspor 0 - 2 Akhisar Beledi…
Galatasaray 4 - 2 Orduspor

SERBIA

Winter break

FA CUP

Middlesborough 0-2 Chelsea
Everton 3-2 Oldham Athletic

5 FULL DAYS - INCLUDES 2 X 1.5 HOUR SESSIONS
EASTER 2013 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - ***2 SEPARATE WEEKS***
TUES 2ND APRIL TO SAT 6TH APRIL **&** MON 8TH APRIL TO FRI 12TH APRIL
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